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COMMUNICATIONS, ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ON NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

SIR,

I HAVE observed, with pleasure, the particular attention you pay to every thing relative to Education. The proposal of Simplex, in your last but one, is of this kind, and from its great importance, and extreme utility, if put into practice, deserves particular notice.

His plan of generalising Education, by bringing it home to the door of every person in the kingdom, at a small expense, either to the government or the people, would be of the most essential service, and in all probability tend as much to conciliate the minds of the lower classes to the government, as any other measure recommended for that purpose. It will be worth while inquiring more particularly, how far the plan he has adopted for effecting this desirable purpose is practicable, and what prospect of success we may reasonably flatter ourselves will accrue from its adoption.

The peculiar advantages of this scheme seem to be its extent, and cheapness. As to the first, its excellence is indisputable; Ireland contains 2436 parishes; if four schools were established in each of these, their number would amount to 9744, which, at the rate of 36 pupils to each (the number specified in the plan) would supply the means of instruction to 351,284 children. The number of inhabitants of Ireland is computed to be 5½ millions. Of this number it may be fairly supposed that five millions are of that class who would wish to profit by such schools. I am not sufficiently versed in economics, to determine the proportion of this number that would be of an age to receive instruction, but if I might be allowed to guess from a very slender knowledge, the number of males from eight to fourteen years of age, which includes the time from which public instruction usually commences, until they are of an age to assist their parents in the works of the field, or manufactures, would not be more than one tenth of the male population, or 250,000, whence it appears that this scheme provides means of education for more than what could take advantage of it. If, however, as I am inclined to think was the case, the writer included the female as well as male population in his calculations, the number to be educated must be doubled, and the means of instruction will then be found in some degree inadequate. But at the same time it is evident that it may easily be enlarged, at a trifling additional cost.

The expense of maintaining this establishment comes next to be considered. The sum mentioned is 120,000*l.* which, even by the writer's concessions will be found insufficient. He allows fifty pounds per annum to be granted by parliament to each parish, for supporting schoolmasters. This alone, makes a sum of 121,800*l.* But as it is to be supposed that a few parishes will

prefer a smaller number, the parliamentary grant may be supposed adequate to cover this expense. But it is said that the parish must also provide a small sum to defray contingent expenses. Money given for a public purpose is a tax, let it be drawn from the people as it may. It matters little whether it be immediately transferred from the pocket of the land holder to the person who is to be supported by it, or arrive at the same destination by the more circuitous course of revenue officers and clerks of the treasury. The only difference is, that in the former case, having a shorter course to run, and meeting with fewer points of contact in its passage, it will be less liable to diminution. This additional sum, which must be taken into the account, is not named in the sketch, but cannot be fixed at less than two pounds for each school, or eight for each parish, making in all an increase of 19,488*l.* To this must also be added, the salaries of thirty-two county visitors. Each of these will have the superintendance of 304 schools; they are to be paid at the rate of 75*l.* for every hundred schools (which allowance will be found insufficient, as I shall prove hereafter) making their yearly salary 225*l.* each, or in all 7,100*l.*

To this must also be added the salary for the agent to the supreme committee, and an allowance for incidental expenses attending the communication between the several branches of this system.

The expenses will stand, according to the foregoing statement, nearly as follows:

Parliamentary grant . . .	120,000
Parochial grant	19,488
Visitors' salaries	7,100
Agents' salary, say . . .	400
Incidental expenses, say	500
	£147,488

In the first year the expenses will be more than doubled; for in addition to all the payments in the foregoing table, the building of school-houses must be taken into consideration. To defray this, the writer supposes a grant of 50*l.* from the public, and 12*l.* 10*s.* from each parish will be sufficient. I am inclined to differ with him. The building of each school would cost 30*l.* at the least, that is 120*l.* for each parish. And though in some, houses are already provided, yet as he supposes, that in such cases the money granted for building schools is to be appropriated for providing dwelling houses for the teachers, nothing is to be deducted on that account. But even by his own calculation the expenses of the first year will stand as follows:

Parliamentary grant for building	121,800
Parochial grant for do. .	30,450
Salaries, as per table. . .	147,488
	£299,738

The foregoing statements are not made with a view of raising difficulties to a plan, the intention of which is so excellent, and the general outline so feasible; on the contrary, it will be found that incorrect estimates have a much greater effect in stifling a public undertaking. For, on entering into the details, an unexpected difficulty arises in providing funds for the increased expenditure, and also raises a suspicion that there is something unsound in the whole fabric, when a defect has been detected in a particular part. By taking a survey of the whole expenditure at first, we are prepared to arrange our plans on an enlarged basis. But though I have shown, that in the execution of this plan, an annual expense would be incurred, much heavier than was at first alleged; this should not prevent its being attended to. We see sums of ten times the amount annually spent either on subsidizing foreign princes, to fight their own battles as long as it suits their interest or convenience, or in sending out ineffectual military expeditions. Were the expenses of educating our infant population equal to those incurred by sending 30,000 men on a three month's ramble through the south of Europe, it is still to be considered, that in the former case, the money advanced by the people is spent in the country, and therefore reverts by other channels to the source whence it originally sprung; while in the latter it is not only lost to us, but serves to augment the resources of our enemies. Besides, a fund already presents itself for supplying a great part

of the sum to be annually raised. Were this scheme to be put in execution, the charter-schools would be useless. The great revenue accruing thence presents itself immediately to be applied to a more beneficial, because a more national and unprejudiced purpose. I am not prepared to state the amount of the revenues of these schools, but from a calculation of their probable expenses a very fair conjecture may be formed, as it is well known, that these are much within the revenues. The average of children in each of the thirty-two charter-schools, is 60, making a total of 1,920. The expenses of feeding and clothing those cannot be estimated at less than 10*l.* each, annually. The salaries of masters, mistresses, and ushers at each school must be 50*l.* and the repairs and incidental expenses of the large buildings in which the schools are kept, may be fairly reckoned at 20*l.* more. The account then will stand thus:

Feeding and clothing the children	19,200
Masters, &c. in 32 schools	750
Incidental expenses	640
	£20,590

Besides the schools here enumerated, there are four provincial nurseries, and two private establishments, under the management of the Governors of the Incorporated Society; the expenses of which, added to the above, may be supposed to raise it to 30,000*l.* annually. Hence, therefore, if the charter-schools, the benefits of which even at present are not adequate to their expenses, and which would, in case of the substitution of parochial schools, be useless, were abolished, the sum arising from them would more than defray the additional expenses of the national system, and verify the words of its author, "that its establishment would not require more than 120,000*l.* per annum additional to be added to the public burdens."

I shall now proceed to take a view of the internal regulations. The first that occurs relates to the masters; they are allowed ten guineas for the education of ten free scholars, and as the number of their pupils is confined to thirty-six, they have besides this the profits of twenty-six pupils, which being estimated at 1*l.* probably the very highest average would make their annual income about 36*l.* This is but a small compensation for a very laborious, and in some degree unhealthy occupation. However it may be augmented in some degree. The number of their pupils is limited to thirty-six, and very probably it is sufficient for one man. In the charter-schools, attention is paid to procure married men, whose wives may be capable of performing some part of the duty. Were the same plan adopted here, the best effects would be produced. A married man is bound by stronger ties to good conduct and regularity. He has an additional motive for exertion. His wife, by taking part in the office of instructing, as is done in every country town with the younger part of the children, who are always, and probably most advantageously placed under the care of females, will enable him to receive a larger number, say ten more, and thus augment his income proportionably. To these we may add, that when such an opportunity is held out for young women to reap a certain benefit from their education, it will be a new stimulus to application, marriage will be encouraged by the prospect of finding a wife an assistant, instead of an incumbrance, and the additional number thus educated, amounting to nearly 200,000, will, without any additional expense to the nation, provide the means of educating the greatest part of the surplus, which, as I proved in the beginning of this paper, would otherwise remain uneducated, if we suppose that females are to participate in the benefits of the system.

The course of education naturally presenting itself, consists of reading, writing, and accounts. As to the Christian duties, I doubt very much whether the teachers can be expected to possess the necessary qualifications for being impartial expounders of the sacred volume. Let the Scriptures, or select parts of them be read, and let the masters set the example, and enforce the observance of the great practical duties of Christianity, and they have done enough. The doctrine is best entrusted to the spiritual teachers already existing, who are well paid

nugatory. They cannot know the relative situations of the schools and committees, unless they examine the schools. It must also be recollected that the committees being voluntary agents, will not submit to the absolute controul of persons nominated and paid by the higher powers. With them, the powers of the visitor can extend no farther than to recommend and advise: with the schoolmasters, their duty is to examine and report. It will be found that this process of examination and reporting, together with the listening to the reports of the local committees, investigating their correctness, and applying remedies to petty abuses and mistakes, which could not come before the supreme committee, will be as much as any one man of good sense, sound constitution, and great perseverance can possibly effect. The salary, also, as I have already hinted, is insufficient. If a man of education and abilities devotes his whole time to one object, he must be paid in proportion; and it must be observed that a fixed salary, as it precludes the hope of increase, ought to be greater than that which varies with the merits of the person employed. The visitor must also be provided with a horse, and pass most of his time at inns, which besides the great expense, will entail the necessity of a double establishment, if he has a family. A brigade major of yeomanry is allowed a guinea a day, yet he remains nearly one half of his time at home, which, however, is fully occupied in making up his returns, and while on his progress, is at little expense, as he is always a guest at some of those gentlemen's houses, whose corps come under his inspection. The county visitor has a much more tedious and constant employment, and cannot hope for the same kind of reception at his different stages. I am not a friend to the too liberal expenditure of public money, but, at the same time, am clearly of opinion, that to have the public business well done, the public servants must be well paid. I would therefore propose that the county should be divided into two districts, over each of which a visitor should be appointed; also, that their salaries should be not less than 300*l.* subject, however to the regulation mentioned by the writer as to the masters, that the supreme committee should have the power of diminishing this in case of inattention or misconduct, and making a fund of the balance thus formed for the reward of superior exertions. The usual method of treating public functionaries, has always appeared to me to be very exceptionable. There is no gradation either of rewards or punishments. Superior talent or exertion meets with no extraordinary recompense; and the only punishment for all offences is deprivation. In the former case, emulation is exstinguished, the latter counteracts itself. In most cases of delinquency, the punishment appears excessive; justice, compassion, friendship, and in many cases interest, prevent its taking effect. Thus, what once was crime, degenerates into custom, and the public affairs decline from bad to worse, without any remedy against the ever increasing abuses which can every day advance a stronger plea of accumulating precedents in their favour.

The last point to be considered is the supreme committee. Two reasons seem to have influenced the proposer of this plan to lodge the ultimate controul in the hands of the heads of the clergy of the three leading persuasions, to prevent the preponderancy of any one sect, and to take the patronage out of the hands of the ministry. With respect to the first of these, the weight of influence seems to be very unequally divided. The Protestant bishop, who constitutes apparently but a third part of this triumvirate would carry along with him all the influence of the ministry and established clergy; while the Moderator of the Synod being changed every year, and possessing no influence but what derives to him from his temporary ecclesiastical character, could never cope in case of a difference of opinion with his permanent authorised coadjutor. This junction, instead of producing the harmony of an engine, whose parts were equally balanced, would resemble the attraction of the sun, earth and moon, in which the one would assume the centre, and sit quietly at his ease, while he forced the other two to revolve in the orbits which he had tracked out for them. As

for this neglected part of their duty. In every parish in the kingdom there is (or ought to be) at least two resident clergymen, a Protestant and a Catholic; in most of the Northern districts, which in general are the most populous, there are three. These, if they have the inclination, are fully adequate to the duty.

The controlling powers appear to be well arranged and to arise from the lower to the higher degrees in a very regular order. The theory looks well, but I fear for the practice Let us examine each of them separately. The first or more immediate is the parochial committee, to consist of the clergymen of the parish, together with six others chosen at vestry. Let us judge of what will be, by what is. In the charter schools, which I look upon as the best precedents to imitate in some points and to deviate from in others, a similar inspecting power is vested in a local committee appointed by the society and consisting of some of the respectable persons, residents in the neighbourhood, and generally, if not always the clergymen of the adjoining parishes. Yet it is well known that several of the charter schools exhibit the most glaring marks of negligence and internal mismanagement. Nor is this to be attributed to inattention in the governors. They are not only willing to hear, but anxious to receive information; reports are regularly sent up signed by one or more of the local committee. Whence then can it originate? I will tell what came almost under my own personal knowledge. One of the country charter houses was entrusted to a master and mistress, who so far from being possessed of any of the qualities requisite for such a place, would scarcely have been admitted as menial servants into a respectable family. They were idle, vicious, and drunken. Their misconduct at length reached the ears of the governors. The master became alarmed; and in order to silence the unfavourable reports which had reached his superiors, and secure himself in his place he applied to the local committee, several of whom signed a certificate in testimony of his good conduct and attention to the morals, improvement, and health of the children. Yet so notorious was his character that in spite of this testimonial he was displaced. I mention this to prove the little reliance to be placed on the spirit or exertions of those who are not incited by their private interest. Another instance will prove that indolence and apathy to what does not immediately come home to self is an obstacle equally general and as difficult to be removed. When it was proposed to publish statistical accounts of the several counties of Ireland, a work which could only be brought to perfection by the concurrent exertions of every intelligent man throughout the kingdom, and which, if properly executed, would ultimately benefit the country gentlemen and farmers most essentially, several of the persons who undertook this laborious and novel work wrote circular letters to all the respectable persons through the country, proposing questions relative to its natural and agricultural state, and we are informed by the writers themselves, that these applications were totally neglected. Perhaps, however, in the present instance, the election at vestry may have better effect. The choice will fall on the respectable farmers, who, living in a state of independence, produced by labour, possess at least nine tenths of the real public spirit of the country; such men as these being as it were the representatives of their neighbours, to whom they will feel themselves responsible at the rigid bar of public opinion, may be unaffected by the passions that instigate the more affluent, and what are falsely called the more independent classes.

The county visitors come next to be considered. Their duty, if properly executed, is very weighty, and attended with a high degree of responsibility. I have already shown that they have the superintendance of three hundred schools. If they visit four of these every day, which would be enough, probably too much for one man to do with proper minuteness, they will be able to go round the county but three times in a year. But it may be said that they are intended rather to controul the local committees, than to inspect minutely into the schools. To this I answer, if so, their appointment is

aside, when they are brought to the table. They who raise potatoes for market are less careful in this respect, and look more to the quantity in the scale or the bushel. Farmers sometimes allege that they must necessarily be late in the potatoe culture by reason of their other spring labour not being completed; but probably the procrastination may often be attributed to the wish to procure an increased quantity.

If such a practice of increasing the quantity at the expense of the quality were weighed in the scales of *conscience*, it would be found not to stand the test. Thus every proper motive of sound policy, and of honesty, and humanity, is in favour of early setting. I mean by early setting, potatoes planted through the month of April, but farthest not to exceed the middle of May. K.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

THE REMONSTRANCE.

A FREE People, possessed of reason and feeling, will complain of public grievances, so long as they are continued; and will pursue prudent and legal means of redress. Nor should they, on this account, be branded with the opprobrious epithet of disaffected, or stigmatized as incendiaries. Those who sincerely endeavour to destroy corruption and promote reformation amongst men, are the friends of good order and well established government, and such only as truly deserve to be accounted loyal. They are the pillars of states. It is their zeal to increase and perpetuate the power and prosperity of that realm, of which they form a part, that urges them to wield their tongues and pens in combating mal-administration, and struggling for the extermination of corruption.

Since the days of William the third, penal statutes have been represented as an infringement on the natural rights of a large portion of the population of the British empire. Since the incorporation of churches and states, and the civil establishment of religion, tithes, either in their principle, or in their mode of exaction, have been depicted as national evils. On these hackneyed topics little now remains to be said.

So long as tithes bear unequally upon the community, where no species of equivalent is received for them; while their quantum is considered to be at the disposal of unfeeling proctors, and ever variable and augmenting in proportion to increased industry, so as to be a heavy *embargo* on so important an object as agriculture; so long as they harrow the feelings of those who are yearly goaded to a conscious sensibility of the evils attending upon the corrupt mode of their imposition and collection, they will ever be a bone of contention between the tithe-farmer and the peasant, the seeds of alienation of affection, between the laity and the clergy, a stumbling block in the way of the progress of religion, and a temptation to disaffection in the subject to his ruler.

As to Catholic claims, reason and justice demand, that all those who live quiet and peaceable lives, who are amenable to the laws, and support the state in person and property, should have an equal and common share in whatever civil privileges their situation and circumstances require. The truth and force of this proposition may be granted, and yet the continuance of disabilities deemed expedient as a measure of policy. That policy, however, which is incompatible with equity and reason, is ignoble, dangerous and immoral. The welfare or security of a state, cannot be supposed to involve in it the destruction of natural rights. Nor can reasons of state supersede the law of equity. A right is not fairly withheld upon the surmise of the claimant's future abuse of it. A wholesome law deprives no man of privileges, until by his misconduct he has forfeited them. Fears may be entertained of promoting Catholic subjects to high and important stations and trusts in the legislative and executive departments of the state; but why entertained respecting them and not others, or more than others, is not easy to imagine! Men of different and opposite sentiments in the theory of religion will be found to have natural principles of honour, integrity, and faithfulness, and also to want all these. Subjects of the best and the worst states, who have made

to the attempt to exclude the interference of the ministry, or to remove the system one step farther from its immediate influence, by the intervention of the supreme triumvirate (I agree with the writer, notwithstanding) we may both in consequence of the opinion be suspected of improper motives, that it is a consummation devoutly to be wished. I know that it is an acknowledged principle, that education is a national concern, and therefore should be under the regulation of the government. If by the *government* be meant the *legislature*, consisting of the KING, the NOBILITY, and the PEOPLE *fairly and fully represented by delegates chosen really by themselves*, I heartily acquiesce in the justice of the maxim: but if this word is meant to express the persons delegated by the king to do his business in the house of commons, the ministers of the day, I confess I see little good likely to result from a scheme, the supreme controul of which is guided by such a fluctuating ephemeral regulator. I see nothing but a new system of new places, pensions, sinecures and influence, extending its ramifications from a triple stem, into every hamlet and cottage in the empire.

The part of the plan relating to the supreme committee or triumvirate seems strongly liable to objection on the grounds just stated.—But though it is far from meeting my approbation, I know of nothing to be substituted in its stead. What I have said, however, not only concerning this branch, but the whole plan, may attract greater attention towards it; if so, it will be found not to be the fanciful theory which I believe it is at present thought.—The rudiments of an excellent system lie involved in it: but much care, and time, and perseverance would be requisite for their extrication. Lancaster has turned the minds of every economical philosopher to the subject of general education. The assertion I am about to make will be deemed a paradox, yet I will not hesitate to declare it. The plan now proposed, or something like it will be found much more practicable, and generally beneficial, than that which has justly been the subject of so much praise and imitation. To carry the one into effect, the abilities of the founder of the system are requisite in every master; in the other ordinary capacity is sufficient: it will be much easier to find 8000 schoolmasters of the latter kind than 80 of the former.

The subject could be dwelt on with much advantage, and many useful hints been drawn from it, for private persons or single parishes to put in practice on a smaller scale, but, I fear, will never be heartily undertaken by the military financial politicians of the present day, the main object of whose administration seems to be to raise money to carry on war, and to carry on war to raise money.

Wishing every success to a scheme for the improvement of my countrymen, I remain, sir, yours,

QUINCTIUS.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE EARLY PLANTING OF POTATOES.

I OBSERVE two of your Correspondents who have written on this subject, have not yet agreed in the accuracy of the statement of expense in the two modes, of the lazy-bed and drill culture. It is not my intention to interfere in this part of the discussion, but I may be allowed to remark that I entirely agree with the assertion of William Gooch, that the lazy bed culture is often preferable, when the palate, and I add the quality as wholesome food are consulted.

But my motive for writing at present is principally to recommend the planting of potatoes in either mode at an early period of the season. Potatoes planted at a late period are seldom as firm and good as those planted more early: and yet the practice of late setting has for several years been gradually increasing. Quality is thus sacrificed to quantity. To those who raise potatoes for their own use, little reasoning is necessary to show that the calculation is a mistaken one, as potatoes of an inferior quality are not profitable, but occasion great waste in the use of them, by the worst of them being thrown

the most plausible pretensions to loyalty and patriotism, members of the purest and most corrupt churches, who have made the most ostentatious parade of sanctity, have, on the day of trial proved traitors and villains. Men of all religious persuasions are naturally alike, and possess what, perhaps, we might call instinctive principles of honesty or deception, of cowardice or bravery. While we are far from the partial advocates for Catholicism, it may be asserted as a fact of unquestionable notoriety, that in the modern annals of the British empire, Protestant commanders, appointed to chief places of trust, have betrayed the momentous causes committed to them, through pusillanimity or corruption, and have been virtually or literally cashiered; while multitudes of Catholics, in different quarters of the world, have, with the heroism of free-born Irishmen, and Britons, fought, bled, and died for their king and their country.

The argument contained in the above reasoning is not invalidated by granting, that the history of other times may furnish ground for reversing the above assertion. There were times when religion, or rather bigotry and persecution entered into the politics of nations. Whoever then were in power, the advocates for this or that creed, lorded over the rights and conscience of those who differed from them in opinion. But those times have passed away, and the persecuting tenets and practices which then existed, should also be allowed to die; not to give place to infidelity and libertinism, to disaffection or republican phrenzy, under the specious names of liberal sentiments and natural rights; but that religion and liberty, properly so called, comprehending, "Peace on earth, and good will towards men," including, "righteousness, peace and joy," might for ever reign. The afflictions issuing from penal laws, have partly disappeared; liberties and privileges have been partially granted, and no alarming evils have ensued. Why then dread the consequences of perfecting that, which in its progress hath been hitherto productive of general good and of no mischief.

In the mean time, the assumption of a dictatorial air, language inflammatory to the people, or menacing to "the powers that be," ill suit the character of Petitioners, and so far as such appear, go to prove them unripe for a full redress. No exaggerated or heightened picture of slavery and woe should be drawn, as if the Catholics of the united kingdom were groaning under the galling shackles of bondage, or pining in misery; or, as if those rulers were tyrannical, who would not, in a day, gratify all their wishes. The great body of that people, in their cottages, live as others, enjoying the food and the raiment of their native soil, sensible of few national evils, but such as are common to them and their neighbours, knowing little and caring little about memorials to Parliament, on the important question of Catholic emancipation. In this situation, however, their remaining disabilities and grievances, should not the less powerfully plead for them.

Whatever tends to damp the spirit of the farmer, to keep him in a state of venal dependance and crouching vassalage, materially injures the commonwealth. Of such tendency are the present customary practices of too many gentlemen, who possess the landed property of the country. Lands are rented at a very high rate. Their price is calculated not from their intrinsic or present value; but from what commerce and improving manufactures may possibly be able one day to effect; from speculations upon the future increasing population of the country, and probable advance in the price of lands, founded upon the experience of late years, short leases, or none are given. The tenant is jealous of expending what little property he possesses in any radical or valuable improvements upon a precarious tenure. The high rent yearly drains from him that little capital which he has scraped together by daily toil, and deprives him of the means of manuring and cultivating his farm, so as to turn it to the best advantage for his own and the public good.

Men of great fortune seldom reside amongst their tenantry; when they do, they live at a lordly distance from them, know little of their wants and difficulties, the toils and privations to which they must patiently submit, to support

rising families, and furnish the stipulated rent at the appointed term. Stipulated by exorbitant demands and absolute conditions on the part of the lessor, and constrained acceptance and engagement on the part of the lesee. We say constrained, because such is the effectual check given to emigration, the difficulty of removing families from place to place; such the rapidly increasing population, the necessity of an additional habitation to every new family, such the number of bidders, who cannot conveniently take a stone for a pillow, or the canopy of heaven for a covering, that landlords may, in the disposal of their lands, clog them with what mulcts, covenants, and forfeitures they please, in addition to whatever rent the pride of unlimited affluence, and the love of money may prescribe. The ancient custom in the letting of land, of tendering to the owners an acreable value, is reduced to a farce. The whole construction and completion of the stipulation is in the power and at the mercy of the lords of the soil. These not unfrequently commit the sole management of their estates to hireling agents, under certain restrictions, who domineer among the people with all the tyranny of an eastern despot. To rents and permits, to changes and uncertainties therein, exclusive of just rents, land-holders are oft subjected from year to year, in obtaining the necessary and comfortable accommodations of fuel. Planting is an improvement of singular benefit to the nation, and what in time would prove one of the country's finest ornaments. Clumps of trees, skirting the hills and the vales, assist in forming the beautiful landscape, and shelter the crops and mansion of the farmer from the piercing and destructive blast. Timber is an essential requisite of architecture and husbandry, two of the chief sources of the wealth of nations, the employments and characteristic features of civilized society. But where strict prohibitions and severe penalties prevent men from using, for the needful purposes of building and agriculture, even a twig of timber, the produce of their own farms, and fruit of their own labour, there planting will be effectually prevented, and all its ornamental and beneficial consequences for ever lost to posterity. To all the great, the above observations do not apply. Let those, to whom they do, be humbly entreated to descend from the pinnacle of their grandeur, and deign to cultivate an acquaintance with the peasantry, who are seated far below them, to ameliorate their condition. When they view their homely fare and russet raiment, the very humble structure and plain furniture of their cabins, the glimmering taper and scanty ingle, which afford them light and warmth, the labour and fatigues, the inclemency of the seasons, the crosses, to which they are exposed, in drudging early and late through the deluging rains and pitiless storms of winter, or sweating under the scorching beams of the summer sun; while they are struggling to answer the landlord's demands, and preserve their little flocks from the merciless cudgel of the bailiff, or the miseries of a pound. A small diminution in the expense of fashionable amusements, of costly apparel and sumptuous tables, of horses and dogs, of livery servants and splendid equipage, would make a great amendment upon the wordly circumstances and comforts of a straitened tenantry. The cost of one grand dinner would raise a townland from indigence to wealth; the superfluous decorations for attending the theatre, or the court levee, would comfortably clothe a thousand naked children; the price of a single diamond would enrich a parish; the prodigal expenditure of one night in the jovial club, or at the gambling board, would place the tenants of an estate in easy circumstances. But suppose it is not ambition or prodigality, but avarice, that induces the 'squire or the lord to increase his rental more than he ought; how cruel would it be to sacrifice the comforts of thousands to gratify the cravings of one sordid appetite? But here, though much might be said, it is vain to descant. All the embarrassments of man, nay, all the aggregate mass of human woes, could they be painted in the most striking colours, would plead, with feeble force, against the "love of money, which is the root of all evil."

In the nature of things, and for the well-being of society, there must be

superiors and inferiors, high and low, yet they merit not the name of levellers, who would argue for the equality of all men in some things. No man, however low, should be trampled upon, or his spirit wounded. The generous superior, will not grate the feelings of such, or sadden his soul by repeatedly impressing him with a sense of his power over him, or exercising it to his injury. It is the duty and honour of the great to endeavour to make men in low stations sit as light and easy as possible. The lower orders of society are the foundation upon which the higher are built. To disturb the foundation is to procure the ruin of the building.

If nature recoils against being driven, let it be led and allured. Harsh measures, continued or increased, will naturally make deeper impressions upon the suffering soul, and procure more embittered complainings, and might endanger the peace and stability of the empire, should they ever approximate to that oppression which makes a wise man mad.

Would superiors, by mildness and moderation, by reformation of abuses, by the pure administration of our glorious constitution, secure the affections of the multitude, and promote union and love among t all ranks, they would establish a more effectual barrier against the encroachments of tyrants, and the desolating power of French usurpation, than even the wooden walls of old England, or the insular situation of the British dominions. S. E.

Ballinahinch.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

THE avowed intention of your useful miscellany being the improvement of the minds and morals of your countrymen, I beg leave through its medium to call the attention of your Readers to a subject which demands their most serious consideration.

At this time of dearth of provisions, and want of employment for the working people, the private distillation of whiskey, is carried on to such an extent as to be truly alarming to every real friend to Ireland.

I am extremely sorry, that the subject has escaped the notice of those who are much abler to discuss it than I am—but I hope from a few hints I shall throw out, some more competent hand may be induced to take it up; and I entertain no doubt, but that when the practice is shown in its true colours it will then appear to be fraught with so many evils to the community, that every rational man will lend his assistance for the suppression of a trade as injurious to the real interests, as it is destructive to the morals, of a large share of the population of the country.

The illicit distiller, that he may conciliate his neighbours, and purchase their connivance and secrecy, is obliged to treat them most profusely with his whiskey; and he hands it about amongst them, with a liberality which procures for him the character of an honest-hearted, worthy fellow, with whom there is no harm, but that he is striving to make a livelihood by humbugging the guager, who is allowed to be one of society's greatest pests. By this means a system of drunkenness and debauchery, is introduced among the farmers, who when doing their duty are the most useful class of men in society.

Unhappily it is too much the disposition of those men to suppose there can be no harm in getting drunk, provided they spend no money; never once reflecting, that the expense of spirits, is but a small part of the real injury sustained by the inordinate use of them: loss of time when drinking, rendering themselves incapable of business after it; loss of health, and the bad example to their children; these are serious injuries indeed, whether viewed in a physical or moral point.

The education of their children (this prime duty of man) is not only neglected, but they are so familiarized to scenes of riot and debauchery, as almost naturally, to fall into the same dissipated habits with their unhappy parents; they hear dreadful vengeance vowed against the guager, and his assistants, in their presence, the question is perhaps often discussed whether it is not highly praiseworthy to shoot a guager in defence of

smuggled whiskey; when the decision is always in the affirmative. They are taught to believe, that the revenue laws are a system of oppression, and that it is therefore just to resist them; and the conclusion drawn is, that if one law is bad and oppressive, others may be considered in the same light, and thus from step to step they go on in moral depravity, and attain to a degree of ferocity which renders them fitter associates for the tyger in the forest, than members of a civilized society.

When an exciseman visits a neighbourhood of this description, on the business of still-hunting, as it is called, the whole posse turn out against him, nothing intimidated by the soldiers with whom he is accompanied; not only the persons immediately concerned with the business, but the whole population of the neighbourhood opposes him in battle array. A serious conflict ensues; sometimes the guager succeeds, and sometimes the the smuggler is victorious, but seldom, very seldom indeed, an affray of this kind ends but with the loss of the lives or limbs of some of the parties; then follow trials at assizes, where witness is marshalled against witness, in the court-house, as they were in the field of battle; perjuries and prevarications are committed; the guager if alive prosecutes with rancour; the smuggler defends himself by the perjuries of his friends; and the trial ends in the conviction of some of those deluded wretches, who terminate their miserable existence at the gallows.

Such has been the state of the country for a length of time; a kind of predatory war is waged in the bosom of our country, wherein the guager and the smuggler are the belligerents; and the cruelties practised by each on the other, are apologized for, by the one in doing the duties of his office; and by the other in defending his property.

And unfortunately the parties being so familiarized with scenes of blood, that the moral character is totally changed, and from being peaceable and quiet citizens, they become so sanguinary and ferocious as to be dangerous men in society.

Some time ago when government had it in contemplation to permit distillation from grain; many were alarmed, that such a measure would be productive of famine; and public meetings were held for the purpose of petitioning against it; parliament lent an attentive ear to the representations made in those petitions, and the restrictions were continued, which restrictions operate in a directly opposite way to that intended; the markets for grain being ever since more scarce than before. When the measure was under discussion, grain rose a little in price, in consequence of speculation, but the markets were well supplied; but as soon as it was found that the distilleries would not be allowed to work, the grain disappeared, and though it fell a little in price, it did not fall in the ratio that was expected.

The reason of this to me is obvious, the smuggler dare not go to a public market to purchase grain, lest he should raise suspicion; but he travels the country round, and purchases at the house of the farmer; pays him his price, and conveys it away free of expense to him, by which means, in markets that have been well supplied, scarce three sacks of grain are to be seen on a market day.

The restrictions on licensed stills will therefore avail little, provided the private ones are suffered to work; and since the prohibition has been confirmed, they have gone on with redoubled vigour. I have good reason to believe that more grain is now consumed by the private distilleries, than all the licensed stills would consume were they double the number, and at full work; for, allowing that they produce no more whiskey, they will use more grain. The smuggler from ignorance and the hurry with which he performs his operations, consumes more grain than the licensed distiller, who has a scientific knowledge of his business, and works on a regular plan. In this case the restrictions on the legal distilleries giving encouragement to the smuggler is not only useless but prejudicial, inasmuch as it induces a greater consumption of grain.

It is astonishing how narrow and

confined are the views of man. The merchant who buys grain for exportation, meets the execrations of the working people; if he loads a vessel with grain or oatmeal, a mob can soon be collected, to strip her of her sails, and prevent her sailing, though the exportation of grain or meal, instead of being a disadvantage to the country, is one of its greatest benefits. Grain used in distillation is lost to the whole human race; grain exported goes to feed our fellow creatures. Grain used in distillation debauches the farmer, blunts his faculties and casts a damp upon his industry; grain exported, encourages the farmer to improve his land and rewards his industry. Grain consumed in distillation, encourages us to misapply our riches and leaves for our inheritance poverty and broken constitutions alone; but grain exported brings the riches of other countries into our own; it enriches the merchant, who, by giving employment to the manufacturer, is serviceable to the very persons who so loudly complain against the trade. In short, so long as we have one uncultivated cultivable acre of land in the country, the exportation of grain should be encouraged; and so long as we wish to preserve health of body or peace of mind, distillation should be discouraged; every encouragement should be held out to the farmer, to induce him to improve his land; and if possible to make one acre produce as much this year, as two acres produced last year; for the interest of every man in the community, is identified with that of the farmer; for in proportion as he is successful the necessaries of life are dear or cheap, plenty or scarce; and in proportion as he is enriched, the rest of the people are enriched; he enriches the merchant, the manufacturer, and the country gentleman.

It is a most lamentable sight to contemplate one of those meal mobs, who violate every principle and every duty they owe to themselves, and to society, by madly attempting what constantly produces the very effect which they wish to prevent; how different would be the conclusion, were that energy they use in a riotous manner to prevent exportation of meal, directed in a legal constitutional way, in support of the civil magistrate, for the suppression of private stills? very different indeed, instead of the actors risking their necks, they would deserve the praise and the thanks of every good man, and would do more towards reducing the price of provisions, than if they were to burn every ship, in which meal would be attempted to be exported.

At some of the public meetings which have been held, for the purpose of petitioning parliament to continue the restrictions on distillation from grain, by the opposers of the measure, the bad consequences of private distilling have been hinted at, but by no means gone into, to that extent which the subject required; no pains were taken to obtain that information, whereby the public might be guided; and being mere assertions, without the shadow of proof to support them, the argument fell to the ground; when it is probable had the following, or a similar statement been laid before them, the conclusion would have been otherwise.

The licensed stills in Ireland, when at work, yield a revenue of about 1,200,000*l* per annum; for the supply of those stills, a quantity of grain, amounting to 3,500 barrels daily, would be required. On the north-west circuit of Ulster, last assizes, fines were levied off five counties, amounting to 31,200*l*. for illicit stills found in them; the fine for each still being 50*l*. it would appear that in those five counties, 624 stills had been seized; now, allowing that the remaining four counties of this province contained no more than a proportion of that number, not taking into view the many stills, which no doubt remain undetected, 1,143 stills have, been employed in this province alone; taking these at an average of 50 gallons each, and allowing, from interruptions, that they will only use five barrels of grain in a day each, a quantity of grain for their daily supply will be required, amounting to 5,715 barrels, which is 2,215 barrels per day more than would be required for the whole of the licensed stills in the kingdom. Here we have, in one province alone, a consumption of grain by private stills, far

exceeding what would keep all the regular stills in the kingdom at work, and a revenue of 1,200,000*l.* lost to the country.

In this statement, the quantity of grain is far under-rated, as is the number of stills in the province; nor is any value laid on the grains and wash, destroyed by the smugglers, by burying them under ground, and swimming them away in rivers; this loss is not by any means inconsiderable, as the appearance of our fleshmarket evinces.

Some short sighted persons, considering that the country is overburthened with taxes, make no account of defrauding the revenue; but let such persons reflect, that government must and will be supported; that if one tax is not sufficient, another will be laid on. If the excise does not produce enough, the hearth and window tax must make up the deficiency—and let such people also reflect, that in consuming whiskey illegally distilled, they are paying the full amount of the tax, not into the hands of government, but into the hands of the distillers of, and dealers in contraband whiskey; and thus they subject themselves voluntarily to the payment of a tax, which they blame the government for imposing.

In taverns, where smokey whiskey is sold, as much is charged for it as for old Antigua rum; and if we purchase it by the gallon, we will pay from two to three shillings more for it than for the whiskey that has paid the excise duty—but then we are told, it is good *malt whiskey, real peat reek*, or *right good pot-yean*. Thus we pay a heavier tax, than that upon spirits regularly imported or distilled, and not one farthing of this tax reaches the coffers of the state, but goes into the purses of those dealing in the article. From all those circumstances, I hope, Mr. Editor, it will appear evident, that it is as much the interest as it is the duty of every good citizen, to use all his endeavours to discourage and suppress this practice, so destructive to the morals of thousands, and so contrary to the real interests of the community at large.

I have often regretted to find the land proprietors come in for a large share of blame, in conniving at this nefarious trade; having frequently heard it roundly asserted, that if they thought proper they could put a final end to it; I hope, however, for the honour of human nature, such insinuations have been groundless, and that the enlightened country gentlemen of Ireland are far from being deserving of such aspersions.

Convinced I am, that no class of men in the empire, are possessed of more loyalty, can boast a nicer sense of honour; nor would go further to protect or support our glorious constitution in church and state. Under this conviction, it is repugnant to my feelings to suppose that such men, for the paltry consideration of receiving a higher rent for their lands, would connive at a trade destructive to the revenue of the country, ruinous to the morals of their tenantry, and contrary to the true interests of the nation.

I am, however, well aware, that no class of men have more in their power as to the suppression of this abominable and ruinous trade; their influence as landlords, and the power of many, as magistrates, give them opportunities of discouraging and suppressing it, not within the reach of any other class of his Majesty's subjects—and at no time, nor on any occasion were they ever more imperiously called on to exert themselves—their own honour, the welfare and prosperity of their tenantry, and the general interest of the country demand it of them. Let them personally examine the premises of their tenantry—let them remonstrate with them—let them threaten them; and provided this has not the proper effect, let them punish them with the utmost rigour of the law.

I would also recommend it to the clergy of all persuasions, to interest themselves on this subject. If the true interest of morality is an object with them, let them reason with their flocks, both in and out of the pulpit—with those concerned in the trade, and those not concerned—point out to the one party the injury they are doing to society by carrying on such a trade—and to the other party, by encouraging it, or in not using their endeavours to suppress it.

I would also recommend parochial meetings and associations, to institute inquiries, and enter into resolutions to

discourage and suppress it all in their power.

I have heard it suggested, that government should increase the fines on the parishes where the stills are found, and make it felony to be found working at the business; this is a measure I hope the good sense and spirit of the people will render unnecessary, as our statute book already groans with pains and penalties, and I should be exceedingly sorry to find that my countrymen were so dead to their own interests as to have them increased on this occasion. D.

Belfast, May 12, 1809.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE WILD IRISH GIRL, AND IDA OF ATHENS.

THE insertion of a paper addressed to you, which appeared in the last number of the Magazine, induces me to trouble you with some remarks on two of Miss Owenson's novels. I am enthusiastically attached to the Irish character, and to my country, but that attachment does not lead me entirely to overlook the defects of the Irish. I am anxious that our authors should rather study the useful, than the ornamental and showy in their writings. High sounding words, and finely rounded periods may catch the attention of the frivolous, but seldom mislead the judgment of the sensible and well informed. Female writers are frequently met with, and the inferiority of intellect is not *now* so confidently asserted as formerly. I believe it is entirely our own fault if we are the inferior sex; but our attention being so often turned to trifling and unimportant pursuits, makes us greater triflers than we ought. Much of our character through life depends on our education in early life; even so late as fifty years ago, females got very little education; but a great improvement has now taken place, and I earnestly and warmly entreat my countrywomen to go on improving, and not to consider that after leaving school our education is finished, but that we may improve every day.

My earnest wishes for the character of my countrywomen, induces me to offer some remarks on the "Wild Irish Girl," which I am confident is not a true delineation of the Irish character, for I have a better opinion of our countrywomen than to suppose their whole attention is occupied in the manner Glorvina's too generally was. The scene in the boudoir is unworthy of a female pen, and I cannot think highly of the refinement of a mind which was capable of imagining such a scene. In my former paper I mentioned Miss Owenson's heroines being so much attached to coquetry, and as a sample I shall refer to the 2d volume of the Wild Irish Girl, pages 236, 239, and 240, where something of the *refinement of coquetry* is discovered. Many other passages equally objectionable, are met with in this book. As I am

"Still pleased to praise, yet not afraid to blame:"

I must say there are some excellent descriptions in the Wild Irish Girl. I began to read it with the highest expectations, and was delighted with the half of the first volume, which is excellent. I felt real interest in the story of Murtoch O'Shaughnassey. Miss Owenson seems to have caught some distinguishing traits in the character of the Irish peasantry. Father John is excellent, and she deserves much credit for drawing the character of a benevolent Irish Priest. The description of the castle of Inismore, the Prince, Glorvina, and the old nurse, would be highly interesting to those who are not acquainted with Ireland, or Irish manners, but the tale loses a great deal of its interest when we know that no such castles are now in existence. The furniture of the castle is rather incongruous. If Miss Owenson's motive for writing this book were to reconcile English prejudices, or the prejudices of *some* of the inhabitants of Ireland, against their Catholic neighbours her motive was laudable and praise-worthy; but why in sketching the character of an Irishwoman need she have made Glorvina a flirt and a coquet? Such I hope is not the distinguishing trait in the character of an Irishwoman. Miss Edgeworth's tales have a simplicity that Miss Owenson's writings do not possess. Miss Edgeworth's Moral and Popular Tales may be read with advantage by persons of all ages. Her sentiments are so excellent, and moral, that she must always be considered an honour to her sex.

To show that indiscriminate censure is not my aim, as well as to inculcate a useful and much needed lesson, I shall conclude this little sketch of the Wild Irish girl, by a few lines of the excellent advice of the Earl of M—— to his son at the conclusion of the 3d volume, when he exhorts him as to his conduct to his Irish tenantry and dependents, the sentiments cannot be too often repeated.

"Remember that you are not placed by despotism, over a band of slaves, creatures of the soil, and as such to be considered; but by Providence over a certain portion of men, who, in common with the rest of their nation, are the descendants of a brave, a free, and an enlightened people. Be more anxious to remove the *causes*, than to punish *effects*, for trust me, that is only to

"Scotch the snake—not kill it;"

to confine error, and awaken vengeance. Be cautious how you condemn, be more cautious how you deride, but be ever watchful to moderate that ardent impetuosity which flows from the natural tone of the national character, which is the inseparable accompaniment of quick and acute feelings, which is the invariable concomitant of constitutional sensibility; and remember that the same ardour of disposition, the same vehemence of soul, which inflames their errors beyond the line of moderate failing, nurtures their better qualities beyond the growth of moderate excellence."

Miss Owenson deserves the highest praise for the patriotism, which is perceivable in all her writings; it is her delineation of the female character to which I object.

Ida is written even in a more affected manner than the Wild Irish Girl, but it has been so well reviewed in the Magazine, that I shall only mention as a sample of Ida's coquetry; when Osmyn was standing under the window she heard him, and not wishing to let him know she perceived him, and yet to discover to him that she was in the chamber, she placed the tripod in the middle of the floor, and walked between the lamp and the window, so that her shadow might be seen on the ground where Osmyn was." Is not this *studied finesse?* Miss Owenson's admirers may say I am severe, I trust I am not unjustly so. All have an undoubted right to think for themselves, and I always wish to have an independent judgment.

A LOVER OF SIMPLICITY OF CHARACTER.

For the Belfast Magazine.

ON SELF-POSSESSION.

"He who ruleth his own spirit, is better than he who taketh a city."

SOLOMON.

IT is lamentable to consider, that many eminent commanders, who have conquered large provinces and countries, have not been able to conquer themselves. Alexander the Great, is an awful instance of this, who, after all his conquests, wept, because his ambition could be no longer gratified. The greatest philosophers have appeared destitute likewise of self-government at the approach of death, though in the course of their lives they evinced great heroism. Whereas it is the nature of self-possession to rise superior to every discouragement in life and death. Examples have occurred, of those who have acted from this principle, more especially in the early ages of the church; who, under the most excruciating torments, have betrayed no marks of impatience, whilst they sealed the truth with their lives. Even before the knowledge of Christianity, eminent men arose, who in general appeared to have the mastery over their own passions. Job was an instance of this virtue, who, amidst the complicated loss of children and property, exclaimed, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away." Another pious character said, "I was dumb, and opened not my mouth, for it was thy doing."

Some, no doubt, have naturally more command of themselves; their tempers have been cast in a better mould, so that they pass through life almost unruffled. Whatever events happen, they treat them as a matter of indifference, whereas others not only feel the smallest trifles, but show a spirit of resentment; like the sensitive plant, they feel the least touch, and shrink from the cause of their misery. This may be attributed to the weakness of

their nervous system; illness may have occasioned it, and therefore they are far more to be pitied than blamed. Not but self-indulgence is a great evil, and is very much to be guarded against, for it has been the cause of a number of weaknesses incidental to the human frame. Indeed, without self-possession we cannot pass comfortably through this life, as there are numberless events of a trying nature to exercise our patience. And what use is fretting under any calamity: it only makes a bad matter worse; whereas if we bear all our trials with magnanimity, happiness will be the consequence. It may not be amiss, therefore, to urge a few motives to self-possession:

1. By the acquisition of this virtue, every calamity, even death itself, is blunted. We see our dangers, feel our miseries, but nobly rise superior to them; so that we go forward in the pursuit of duty, and attain the plaudit of our own minds, as well as of the world. On this principle soldiers rush into the field of battle, and fall nobly in defence of their country. Examples of this virtue occur in every war undertaken for self-preservation. So that fool-hardiness is different from this conduct; for it invades another country, or runs into danger without a lawful call.

2. The peace of our own minds is a motive sufficient to overbalance every other consideration; and it is impossible to acquire this disposition without self possession. All sound philosophy has been established upon the mastery of the passions, in opposition to self-indulgence. It must therefore be of the greatest importance to cultivate this disposition, for thereby we ensure to ourselves far greater riches than the possession of all the Indies, even the possession of ourselves, so as not to lose our temper, but enjoy equanimity.

3. Another inducement to this virtue is, the wonderful good effect it has on our health. Many have suffered from unbridled passions, and injured their health essentially. Passion is very dangerous to the constitution, as many have found from bitter experience; whereas those bear their age the best, who in general evidence a meek and quiet temper.

A very remarkable instance of self-possession occurs in the life of Sir Isaac Newton, which may close the present essay: "Sir Isaac Newton was called out of his study on a particular occasion, to an adjoining room. A little dog, named Diamond, happened to be left amongst the papers, and threw down a lighted candle, which consumed the almost finished labours of some years. Sir Isaac soon returned, and had the mortification to behold his irreparable loss. But, with his usual self-possession, he only exclaimed, "Oh, Diamond! Diamond! thou little knowest the mischief thou hast done."

Glanmire, Feb. 4, 1809. T. M.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

ROSA....A MORAL TALE.

Continued from p. 183, *No VIII.*

MRS. Cleveland saw the consequences of this marriage with pangs, which added acutely to the misery of ill-health; and wished most earnestly for Mr. De Clifford's absence, that she might imprint her counsels on the young and inexperienced heart of Rosa. Mr. De Clifford had often wished his wife to consent to accompany him abroad; but Rosa held her promise to Mrs. Cleveland sacred, independent of which she could not, without a degree of ingratitude she was incapable of, leave her benefactress, in her present precarious state of health: and as Mr. De Clifford's bills were now almost exhausted, he shortly, as he had promised, placed her under the protection of Mrs. Cleveland; and with repeated assurances of speedy return, embarked with a fair wind for his native country: Rosa watched the launching of the vessel, with an eye calm and steady; yet her bosom heaved with agony; but when even the last faint echo of the cheers of the mariners ceased; when De Clifford's voice was no longer heard; his form no longer seen; her spirit failed her; a dark foreboding of evil came over her, and she sunk senseless into the arms of an attendant. She had regularly made the most particular inquiries concerning East India arrivals, with the hope of hearing her uncle announced as a passenger but

this hope had as yet met with constant disappointment.

Mrs. Cleveland received her with the sincerest affection; and sensible of the value of the sacrifice she had made, exerted her utmost efforts to make her time pass chearfully, by encouraging her to go abroad, and procuring agreeable society at home; and Rosa's mind, ever elastic, looked forward with fond hopes, that softened by their separation, she might on his return, mould De Clifford as she pleased.

But alas! poor Rosa! calamity assailed thee, from a quarter totally unexpected! you knew not the world, or its malice; and that to be young, lively, and ingenuous, and absent from your legal protector, was to be exposed to the malignant shafts of envy, and detraction! Hadst thou been hypocritically prudish! Hadst thou carried about with thee a mockery of seriousness, inconsistent with youth, and its blooming hopes! Hadst thou been sophisticated, and artful, then wouldst thou have been applauded. But as it was—with feelings animated and alive to every trait of genius or singularity, you were too fair an object for the shafts of envenomed persecution. Even the respectable protection of Mrs. Cleveland, was not sufficient to preserve thee from them! Thou knewest nothing, Rosa, of the chicanery of life! thou didst not think it necessary, when thy heart opened to all the glow of social happiness, in pleasing society, to repel its warm energies, and clothe thyself in the gravity of age; nor did thou in the company of men of sense and genius, think it incumbent on thee, to shut thyself up in uncomfortable silence, merely because Mr. De Clifford was absent; no, sweet Rosa, not such thy cold and hacknied feelings! and when the praises due to thy playful wit, buzzed around the envious circle, thou wert much too artless to perceive, that the malignant sneer, the side-cast glance, and the damning nod of the head accompanied it!

Mr. De Clifford's singular silence, who had been now above a year absent, without any intelligence arriving from him (though the safe arrival of the ship had been announced in the public papers) added a yet deeper sting to malevolence; and Rosa first began to perceive it, in the cold and altered manners of her female acquaintance. She was now continually exposed to the most mortifying inquiries.

"Have you not heard from Mr. De Clifford yet?" was the usual question. "Well it certainly is very singular! you are convinced that it is not any fatal event on his side, that occasions his strange silence? but to be sure, poor thing, that can not make you easy! your situation is in every way unpleasant! deserted so young! your conduct ought to be very prudent, for people *will* take liberties!"

From harangues such as these Rosa generally retreated astonished, indignant, mortified, and by no means perfectly understanding them. But she was not long permitted to remain ignorant of their meaning. A kind friend was found to strike the barbed arrow yet deeper; to let her feel in its fullest extent the wretchedness De Clifford's conduct had inflicted. This friend was Mrs. Lendrick! She it was, who first tore the veil aside, and showed to Rosa her prospect of misery! She it was, who placed the first wound in a heart pure, ingenuous and affectionate! nay! so well did she act her part, that at the moment she poured the poison of misery into her bosom, poor Rosa thought her her sincerest friend.

"To be sure, Mrs. Lendrick felt her afflictions almost as forcibly as if they were her own. She had thought of her more than any one else, her own children excepted, and would if called on, act a sister's part by her. She was convinced of her dear Rosa's innocence! But the world, the world would not allow it; and the world was not to be braved with impunity!"

She then related to the almost heart-broken listener some strictures on her conduct; one half of which we may with justice impute to her own invention (for the detractor will always exaggerate) and when she thought she had brought her to a proper pitch of suffering, she soothed her with tears, and caresses; and Rosa, mistaken Rosa,

left her with a heart warm with gratitude, though sunk in dejection.

The contemptuous neglect of one sex generally brings with it the insults of the other, so that we can hardly be astonished when no middle path is left to the unhappy female that so many become the unfortunate victims of vice. Rosa had scarcely reached home, ere two letters, each containing the most infamous proposals, were delivered to her, the one from a young man, whose intimacy at Mrs. Cleveland's rendered his insult even more unpardonable; the other from an old gentleman she had met some time back at a party, whose name she had not then heard, but who now introduced himself under the title of Murray. Bitter tears of agony could scarcely be concealed; but unwilling to distress her benefactress with a knowledge of them, she inclosed them in separate blank covers, and sent them to the post-office.

"Oh, Frederick!" she cried in accents of anguish, "to what have you not exposed me! Oh! why, if so careless of the hapless Rosa, did you profane the marriage tie, and by your desertion, brand your wretched wife with infamy?"

Mrs. Cleveland now entered. It was no new thing to see Rosa in tears, and she viewed her unmerited fate in silent compassion. Rosa now for a time struggled to conceal her anguish, under the mask of assumed gaiety, and to laugh at the malice of her destiny. But she soon found that Mrs. Lendrick had at least spoke true on one point, the world was not to be braved; she might have also added, that the misery of our heroine's own heart could not long be endured. She sunk beneath it, and for a length of time her reason and her life were equally despaired of. During this interval, though Mrs. Cleveland's health was daily failing, and herself growing more infirm, yet she attended Rosa with all the fondness and assiduity of a mother. Nor did Mrs. Lendrick fail in the farce of attention; calling frequently to inquire after, and pity the unfortunate young creature.

At length, contrary to every one's opinion, Rosa recovered. Renewed health gave activity to her frame; but brought not peace to her heart. Among the most early of her visits, on going out, was one to Mrs. Lendrick; but this lady, conceiving she could no longer be applauded for attention or compassion to a being, who seemed kindly forgotten by the world, received her with the most petrifying coldness. The old story, with additions, was brought forward to a victim issuing from confinement and the grave; and though she was still perfectly assured of her Rosa's innocence, and still loved her dearly as a sister, yet several people had been advising with her, and for her children's credit and her own, she must decline all further connection with her.

Wild, haggard, almost distracted, Rosa rushed from her presence, and sought Mrs. Cleveland's, almost fearing she too would be changed, and that she would be spurned from the door. When she entered, she understood that a nephew of Mrs. Cleveland's had arrived from Ireland, on a visit to his aunt, and that, agitated by the meeting, she had retired early to her chamber with an order not to be disturbed. The young man had walked out, and poor Rosa retired to a pillow of thorns, and wept the bitter tears of misery unconsoled. When she should have risen, she fell into a deep sleep, from which she was awaked by the frantic screams of Mrs. Cleveland's maid, who burst into the room with the dreadful intelligence, that her mistress had been found dead in her bed! Rosa sprung from the couch, reeled, and fell senseless on the floor. When she recovered, she found herself supported in the arms of the imprudent girl, whose rashness had occasioned her indisposition. While Mrs. Cleveland's physician, bent over her, a burst of sorrow relieved her full heart, as she met the compassionating gaze of the good Doctor.

"My dear young lady," said the worthy man, "our friend is gone to receive the reward of her benevolence, in another and a better world! She died," he continued, answering the anxious inquiries he read in her looks, "owing to the bursting of a blood-vessel, which was occasioned, I must imagine, by the vehemence of coughing; but she is happy!" He paused, and a tear fell on his hand.

Rosa now, in spite of his entreaties, insisted on proceeding to the apartment

of her deceased benefactress, and never did a sincerer mourner sink beside the bed of death. She wept the friend of many years, the friend who alone in life cared for, or regarded her, and so forlorn, so exquisite was her sense of misery, that she almost thought, till then, she had never been unhappy.

Rosa's reason, as we have already observed, always fell a victim to the approach of calamity, and her ideas now became wild and unconnected. But still, the recollection of her desolate situation, and the necessity of her removal from her present residence (as Mrs. Cleveland's nephew seemed to be utterly devoid of delicacy or feeling) was forcibly impressed. Mr. De Clifford had never sent her any remittances, and she had but five pounds remaining of the last quarter's payment of the annuity, Mrs. Cleveland generously allowed her; and as she had not made a will (the property being hereditary) she could expect no other provision. Poor old Janet was some time dead! but Lucy was well married, and let lodgings in rather a superior stile than what her mother had done. For her, as a last resource, she sent: the faithful creature immediately obeyed the summons; but shocked by the expression of our heroine's countenance, she burst into tears. Her apartments were fortunately unoccupied, and Rosa having with a gloomy composure, and a brimful eye, watched till the last of the mourning train disappeared, which attended her benefactress to her narrow home, was by Lucy conveyed almost unconscious of her situation to a hackney coach, and shortly set her down at the habitation of her humble friend.

Rosa had now reached the utmost climax of suffering! she had outlived every dear connection, every social feeling. The day wore an appearance gloomy as her sensations, and she seated herself at a window, which presented but a view of dirty streets, and bustling passengers. Every one seemed to have an end in view; a something to inspire them, except herself. Her heart swelled with an incoherent sense of her own desolate situation. Dreams of times departed floated on her mental vision, when her voice was wont to add to the hilarity of a cheerful circle, and her presence was the promoter of mirth, and good humour. Her sensations each moment assumed a wilder tinge of madness; she groaned in the agony of an afflicted spirit, and frantically exclaimed—

"They say I am guilty! and why should I not be so? for who have I to care for my innocence? I am despised, abandoned, spurned!"—she paused, and gazed frantically around her; the shades of her mother, and of Mrs. Cleveland seemed to pass before her. They smiled approvingly; De Clifford, and Mrs. Lendrick closed the groupe; they also smiled, but to the glazed eye of the maniac, it appeared maliciously! "Ha! you triumph!" she wildly continued. "But I will make you yet feel! I will show you what I might have been, and what I will be. Nay, frown not my mother, your Rosa will be kept in magnificence, and magnificence in this world is every thing, and guilt—oh! real guilt is nothing!

Burning whirwinds seemed to rush through her brain! she tottered to a table, where lay her letter-case, and a pen and ink. With feeble hands, she with difficulty traced the following lines.

"I am yours, come quick, or I will fly far away, where you, nor any one else, shall find me———

Rosa."

She hesitated who to direct this to, and at length scrawled Mr. Murray's address. "They will think he is my father," she said wildly putting her hand to her head. "When guilty, they will perhaps give me credit for innocence."

She rung the bell, and Lucy appearing, she, with impressive wildness desired her to convey that letter to the post-office; Lucy terrified by her looks, durst not disobey her; and Rosa, fatigued by her exertions, sunk into a chair.

Ah hapless Rosa! had any compassionating friend whispered to thee, that this conduct was the mere effervescence of frenzied madness; had they soothed thee with the celestial balm of benevolence, and led thy thoughts to a *higher power* for comfort, thy fate might have been dif-

vault, and erected a splendid monument to their memory. Vain mark of ostentatious affection! Mrs. De Clifford's uncle reached England in safety, but too late to experience the peace and happiness he sought for in his family; and, disappointed in his wishes, returned to India. The erring De Clifford, awakened from his dream of dissipation, also returned, but it was only to weep with unavailing penitence over the tomb of her he had so basely deserted; to execrate his own criminality, for the blessing he had lost; and vainly to regret that he had ever left her. Of Mrs. Lendrick we will say little. Let us leave her to her own reflections, which will no doubt one day prove her own *punishment*, and convince her, that never did she lose a sincerer friend than she did in the unfortunate Rosa. MARIA.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SKETCH OF A SHORT EXCURSION LATELY TAKEN IN THE WEST OF SCOTLAND.

"*Speak of me as I am.*"

SHAKESPEARE'S OTHELLO.

Monday.

HAVING met with three friends (two ladies and a gentleman) going to visit Edinburgh, I was prevailed on to accompany them part of the way by two inducements; first, very fine weather, and secondly, an agreeable party. A. M. Embarked on board the packet at Donaghadee, for Portpatrick, where we landed after a passage of four hours. The only unpleasant circumstance during our passage was, the extreme sea-sickness of our fair companions, who were comforted by "sure and certain hopes" of recovery in a few hours. After breakfasting at Portpatrick, we proceeded in a post-chaise to Stranraer, to which a new level road is just now preparing, the present road being one of the worst in Scotland. Stranraer is agreeably situated on the south side of Loch-ryan, which to the N. and N.W. affords excellent anchorage, and frequently abundance of herrings, and other kinds of fish are caught here.

The main street of this town is long, and well built, although not regularly so, and near its junction with the Glenluce road is very narrow. A small expense might obviate this inconvenience, by enlarging the bridge, and the adjoining part of the street. Several smaller streets and lanes intersect the principal one. The town is so eligibly situated, that its increase and improvement are unavoidable; the great roads to Dumfries, Ayr, and Portpatrick, leading through it, so that there is a constant resort of travellers. Stranraer is the seat of a custom-house, and as well as the coasting trade to Glasgow, Greenock, &c. has considerable exports and imports, to and from England and Ireland. It is also a royal burgh, having a vote for a representative (in conjunction with three other burghs) in the Imperial Parliament. Stranraer is mostly the property of the Earl of Stair, and has about 3000 inhabitants. It is a post town, and has well frequented fairs for horses and oxen. Here are two good inns; the *King's Arms* is the best house. From Stranraer to Cairn, six miles, a level road, close to Loch-ryan. The peninsula here called the *Rynnes of Galloway*, reaches from Loch-ryan to the Irish sea. The length, from the Mull of Galloway on the south, to the Fairland point, on the north, thirty miles; breadth, from three to six. In the loch several vessels were at anchor, and on the opposite shore of Kirkcolm, good land, and snug farm houses, yielded a pleasant prospect. The estate of Cairn belongs to Mrs. Dunlop; and Loch-ryan house, the property of that family, uninhabited for many years, is prettily seated near the shore, contiguous to a steep rocky hill, overgrown with heath; which, with several tall trees adjoining, and the rumbling of water down innumerable precipices, renders the view not displeasing. Here is also a good slate quarry. The village of Cairn contains only a few houses, irregularly built, on the side of Loch-ryan. The inn is tolerable. Here we procured another chaise, and fresh horses. As this carriage was not so large as the one we brought hither, we were greatly crowded. Neither was my male friend of the smallest dimensions, but a "jolly, portly man,

ferent. But thou wert friendless, and doomed to be unfortunate.

A heavy stupor now oppressed her faculties. The gloom of evening rapidly approached; and her solitude remained undisturbed, except by the tender cares of Lucy. Rosa unconsciously pulled from her bosom the locket which contained her parent's hair, she gazed on it with deep emotion; it awakened tender recollections, and her heart clung to them. She had often heard her mother say, it was the first present her father had made her. The darker hair she knew was his.

"My father," she tremulously repeated, "alas! I never knew a father, but my mother, my sainted mother;" asked she wildly, "shall I prove unworthy of my mother?"

Absorbed in her emotions, she heard not the opening of the door; nor perceived the entrance of Mr. Murray. The hoary libertine paused, appalled by the picture presented him. Rosa, with disheveiled hair, frenzied eye, and a countenance bearing that within which passeth show, bent over the locket. Strange, undefinable emotions were felt by Mr. Murray. He could not speak; but the oppression of his heart was relieved by a deep sigh; Rosa started. The gentleman advanced, "I came madam ——" by your request he would have added; but frantiely shrieking, Rosa, with the inconsistency of madness, clung to Lucy for protection; and as she twined around her, the ribbon which confined her locket snapped, and it fell on the floor. With prophetic agitation, Mr. Murray stooped to lift it; but scarce had he done so, ere the wildness of the maniac seemed communicated to himself.

"Your name," he incoherently, but in deep accents muttered.

"Oh! do not hurt me!" she fearfully replied, "I am Rosa, and my mother was Rosa, yes Rosa Davenant, but my father was———

He heard no more, the unprincipled Mr. Murray—the libertine lord Loughshiel, now marquis of Roxborough, sunk senseless at the feet of his unhappy daughter!

It was the marquis of Roxborough who now suffered, under the avenging chastisement of heaven! We will do him the justice to own, that on the death of his father and Lady Loughshiel (who fell a victim to a rage for dissipation, when in a state of pregnancy) he made every possible search for the object of his juvenile attachment with a wish to do her justice; but his efforts to discover her proving vain, he insensibly again imbibed the libertine pursuits he had been but too partial to in youth. Rosa's appearance he had been much struck with, and though her summons was a little incoherent, he eagerly obeyed it.

Sensibly awakened to the fond and agonized fears of a father, the Marquis, when he recovered, found his scourge bitter as his sins, as he viewed the situation of his daughter. He ordered Lucy instantly to prepare a comfortable bed. Medical men of the first eminence were called in. Every delicacy which luxury could invent or money purchase, was procured. But, alas, his attentions came too late! the heart of the sufferer was broken! Alternately, in the delirium of her fever, she raved of her mother, Mrs. Cleveland, Mrs. Lendrick, and De Clifford, and on the evening of the fourth day, she, without having obtained one interval of reason, sunk, an early prey, to tyrant Death! a hapless victim of calumny and deception!

O! women, stiled lovely and gentle! where lie those qualities, when you wield the deadly sword of scandal! the sneer! the whispered tale! the malignant smile, with which you stab your hapless victim!——Did you but consider, that every sentence you utter, carries a barbed arrow to the heart of innocence! Were the annals of the unfortunate of your sex strictly examined, it would be found, that many of them, unfriended—destitute, yet innocent! sunk beneath your poisoned malice! and became the guilty thing you wished to make them; and that many guilty, but not irretrievably so, were driven to the only resource left them, by the austerity of your virtue.

The Marquis of Roxborough, a prey to remorse, and that never-dying worm conscience, did not long survive his unhappy daughter. Ere his death, however, he had the body of Mrs. St. Clair removed beside Rosa's, in the family

millan-hill, supposed the nearest part of the mainland to Ailsa, a conical island or rock, about five leagues distant. It belongs to the Earl of Cassilis, of whom it is rented at £25 per annum. Its only inhabitants are goats, rabbits and sea-fowls, particularly Soland geese, the feathers of which, and the skins of the rabbits, when sold, pay the rent. On the summit is a ruined castle of ancient erection. This rock is in view during more than thirty miles of the journey from Stranraer to Ayr. Ailsa, in clear weather, is also visible from the opposite north-eastern coast of Ireland. At a short distance north-east from the road, upon an eminence, are the ruins of Carleton castle, from which Sir Andrew Cathcart has his title of Baronet.—Within three miles of Girvan, the country exhibits a more fertile cultivated appearance. The people were busy reaping. Eastward from the road, stands a neat mansion, well sheltered by lofty hills and plantations which in the phrase of the country are called Policies. Entering Girvan, there first appears a long street of thatched houses, inhabited by weavers, as the manufacturing of woollen and cotton articles prevails here. Girvan is a Burgh or Barony, governed by Bailies &c. it has two decent streets, with some adjoining lanes; it is also a post and fair-town. Near the river there are several well built houses. The parish church is a plain decent edifice. This town is in the estate of Sir Hugh Dalrymple Hamilton, bart. and probably contains 2000 inhabitants. Here we found an excellent inn—every thing comfortable. In the evening I sent for my venerable acquaintance, Bailie W.—— We spent some time gravely, though not unpleasantly, in enumeration of the amiable character, genius and talents of his deceased son, Surgeon W.——, my late worthy friend.

Wednesday.—Although five miles out of our way, we took the interior route from Girvan to Maybole (17 miles) by the river Girvan. Here the country assumes a complete contrast to that we left behind. In place of "*Moorlands and mountains, rude barren and bare,*" appear cultivated fields, gentlemens' seats, clumps of trees on the sloping hills, verdant lawns, and numerous farm-houses and cottages. We passed through the pretty village of Daily. In this district the elegant mansions of Sir H. D. Hamilton of Bargeny, Sir Adam Ferguson of Kilkerran, Mr. Kennedy of Dalwherran, &c. are well entitled to the attention and admiration of the curious traveller. Maybole (the property of Lord Cassilis) is a populous thriving little town, seated upon an eminence. The woollen manufacture is carried on here. The parish church newly erected, is a handsome building of hewn stone. Here is a good inn, where we stopped to change horses, and to take refreshment. Excellent freestone quarries abound in this neighbourhood. From Maybole to Ayr 9 miles, the road is level and good, and the country remarkably fertile and populous. The bridge over the river Doon has a magnificent arch, being larger than that of the Rialto at Venice. Here I could not avoid humming the elegant and pathetic stanzas, beginning,

"Ye banks and braes of bony Doon,"

the production of the inimitable Burns. A short way from the bridge of Doon, stands the cottage that gave birth to this celebrated genius. It is now a country ale-house, kept by Miller Gowdie. Here we delayed a few minutes, and drank to the memory of the Ayrshire Bard. The gentlemen of Ayr with a degree of taste and liberality that does honour to them, annually meet in this ale-house, to dine and celebrate the anniversary of their native Bard. While passing the ruin of *Alloway Kirk*, the highly humorous and well known tale of "*Tam O'Shanter,*" recurred to my memory. At sun set we entered Ayr, where for refreshment and repose we found an excellent inn.

Thursday.—Here we found our breakfast-table decorated beyond expectation; kipper'd salmon, cold ham and eggs, honey, marmalade, preserved fruit, tea, coffee, toast, &c. were suitably arranged. English epicures have acknowledged the superiority of Scotland for a *breakfast*, and Ireland is said to excel in *suppers*.

Friday.—Ayr is a large, well built town, situated on both sides of the river

with a wig about his ears." However we crushed together wonderfully, to give our ladies sufficient room, and when a man *must* be squeezed, his suffering is greatly palliated by coming in contact with an amiable accomplished woman, "nature's darling child." A few miles from *Cairn*, a rivulet called the *March burn*, separates the shires of Wigton and Ayr. Crossing a bridge over this rivulet, we now entered the latter county; the water rushes down in various directions from the conterminous heights, and forms a pretty cascade.

Proceeding a little distance to the interior, with increasing admiration of the wild romantic scenery, the traveller enters the vale of *Glen-nap*, through which a river of that name takes its winding course. Numerous flocks of sheep and goats were browsing along this glen, and upon the adjacent hills. The vale is extensive, and along the banks of the river we perceived a few scattered farm-houses. Here, too, on some sequestered spot, may the uncorrupted swain breathe forth, "devoid of all guile," the effusions of unalterable love to his favourite shepherdess; who with that endearing smile, ever peculiar to female beauty and innocence, may receive the tender, delightful impression, and own a mutual flame. And when alone, she may use her charming "wood-notes wild," in praise of her absent lover, to the fine old ballad,

"Up amang yon cliffy rocks,
Sweetly rings the rising echo,
To the maid who tends the goats,
Lilting o'er her native notes:"

These rural scenes, secluded from the bustle and luxury of great towns, and the comforts of polished society, may, notwithstanding, yield to their industrious, unambitious inhabitants, the blessings which arise from religion, morality, and contentment. But thus fondly ruminating on the happiness of a pastoral life, may detain me too long upon the *braes of Glen nap*. I shall proceed with my narrative. The highest hills here within view are those of *Caerlock and Ben y raird*, perhaps not inferior to the Welsh or Highland scenery. Near the head of the glen is a toll-house, wherein is paid the usual charge by travellers (those on foot excepted) for repair of the road, which is unavoidably steep and hilly, but always in good order. Here we purchased some excellent hazle-nuts. Entering Ballantrae (twelve miles from Cairn) above a narrow part of the road, overhanging the river Stinchar, are the ruins of a castle, which in former times must have been a place of considerable strength, the residence of some ancient military chieftain. The river Stinchar, or Ardstinchar, here falls into the Irish sea. The Salmon fishery of this river lets for 80*l.* per annum. Ballantrae, and the adjoining country, are the property of Sir Hugh Dalrymple Hamilton, bart. It is but an insignificant village, containing about half a dozen tolerable houses, and a few thatched cabbins. The parish church, and church yard, like many others in the country parts of Scotland, are immediately contiguous to the Manse, *i.e.* the minister's house, which is here pleasantly situated fronting the sea. The inn, though not large, is pretty comfortable. Here we arrived at six in the evening, in time for dinner, which consisted of an excellent salmon, and very nice Galloway mutton, which, although much smaller, we thought more tender, and more agreeable to our palate than the English or Irish mutton. The wine and other liquors were very good. We retired to rest rather fatigued, intending to proceed no further than Girvan the ensuing day.

Tuesday.—A road, through the interior, by the parish of Colmonell, and partly along the river Stinchar, leads from Ballantrae to Girvan, distance 18 miles; another road, along the shore (15 miles) which although very hilly, we preferred. Ascending a few miles, the prospect is peculiarly romantic and interesting. On the east, the towering hills, covered with heath and natural wood; in some places the road runs zig zag, winding past steep rocks and intricate caves. Again it overhangs rugged precipices, descending several hundred feet to the edge of the water. While on the west, amidst the azure extent of the rolling billows, old Ailsa with insular dignity, stands with majestic elevation. Ar-

Ayr, which here falls into the Irish sea, a few leagues from the Frith of Clyde. The streets are broad and straight, with several well furnished shops. The number of inhabitants is about 7000. The quay is well built, and vessels of 400 tons burthen can get over the bar at high-water. Ayr is a royal Burgh, governed by a Provost and Bailies &c. It has a parliamentary vote, in conjunction, with Inverary, Campbletown, Rothesay and Irvine. The churches, court-house, custom-house, barrack, bank, tolbooth, &c. are handsome buildings.

Saturday.—The new bridge is a fine specimen of modern architecture. Here are very extensive coal-works, which have yielded a handsome fortune to the proprietor. The principal export of this article is to Ireland. Ship building is here carried on extensively. The manufactories of cotton, linen, woollen cloths, tanning of leather, shoes and saddling also prevail.

Many important transactions in Scottish history have occured here. This town has several commodious inns. Here is a mail-coach every day to Glasgow, and a stage-coach thrice a week to Portpatrick. Ayr is 77 miles from Edinburgh, 34 from Glasgow, 46 from Greenock, 50 from Dumfries, 12 from Kilmarnock, and 63 from Portpatrick. During our stay we took some jaunts through the environs of Ayr. The country is naturally fertile, and highly improved. On the banks of the river Ayr, the *holms* and *dells* are well cultivated. These, with the rising grounds, "*O'erhung with wild-wood thick'ning green*," form a luxuriant landscape.

Tarbolton, although a small village, is situated upon a gentle declivity, in the midst of a beautiful country. Here I was most cordially received by a reverend friend Mr. C——, whose piety, learning, and amiable manners, render him an ornament to his sacred profession, and have also endeared him to his congregation and connections. From Loudon-hill there is a fine prospect; the village of Mauchline and many other places, rendered classic ground by the works of Burns, are situated in this neighbourhood; "Willie's Mill," mentioned in his poem of, "*Death and Dr. Hornbook*," is in the village of Tarbolton, sometimes called the Clachan. The iron-works at Mainkirk are very extensive. Eglinton-castle, the earl of Eglinton's; Coglsfield-house, Lord Montgomerie's; Loudon-castle, the earl of Moira's; Auchinleck, Mr. Boswell's; and Auchincruive, Mr. Oswald's, are all elegant, commodious mansions.

Sunday and Monday.—'Tis highly pleasing to see the solemn respect that is paid to the Sabbath-day in all parts of Scotland. Going to their different houses of public worship, the inhabitants of Ayr, have a remarkably decent, genteel appearance. To the fair sex here, nature has been liberal of her charms, as few towns of similar magnitude, can produce so many beautiful accomplished females. I must again quote two lines from the works of Burns:

"Auld Ayr, whom ne'er a town surpasses,
"For honest men, and bonny lasses."

Here I left my friends to pursue their journey, regretting that business did not permit my accompanying them to Edinburgh, where I had before spent some months with much satisfaction.

Tuesday.—At seven o'clock, A. M. took a seat in the stage-coach for Port-Patrick; my only fellow traveller was a Glasgow merchant, an agreeable, intelligent gentleman, on his way to Dublin, for which city, and for Belfast, he had several introductory letters to persons highly respectable. Leaving Ayr, the prospect is pleasing in all directions, and is terminated by the lofty mountains of Arran, and the rock of Ailsa. Betwixt Maybole and Kirkoswald, stand the ruined palace of *Battersau*, and the large beautiful ruin of *Cross-Ragwell* Abbey, a very small part of the roof yet remains. We had neither leisure nor inclination to explore these ancient ruins, as I had gratified my curiosity in that respect upon two former tours. At the general dissolution of religious houses in Scotland, the lands annexed to this monastery were granted to the family of Cassilis.

While breakfast was preparing at the inn of Kirkoswald, we walked to a hill, upon which stands the parish-church, a neat clean building contiguous to the Manse; from this hill a

fertile, well-cultivated tract of country is visible. Kirkoswald is a neat, little village, belonging to the earl of Cassilis, whose suberb mansion of Culzean castle is in this vicinity. From Kirkoswald there is a smooth level road along the shore to Girvan, from whence we proceeded to Ballantrae, where the coach stops twenty minutes, which we spent agreeably in the Manse, where we were courteously and hospitably received by the Rev. Mr. D——, to whom I had been introduced some years ago. This pious and venerable gentleman is only the third minister of Ballantrae, since the revolution of 1688.

My companion, who had not before seen this part of the country, was delighted with its picturesque appearance; at Cairn we waited for dinner, which consisted of nice roasted mutton, and excellent fresh herrings. At seven, P. M. we arrived at Portpatrick, I invited a friend to the inn, where we spent a social pleasant evening.

Wednesday.—Portpatrick is a small sea-port town, over-hung with steep hills and rocks, close to the Irish channel. The entrance to the harbour is narrow and rocky, but the quay (on the top of which is a light-house) is one of the best in Great Britain, and was built at a very considerable expense about twenty years ago. The depth at high-water in this harbour, is about ten feet, and in high spring tides, sixteen feet. A little to the southward of Portpatrick, stands the ruined castle of Dunskye, boldly erected upon a precipitous rock, overhanging the sea. From this port the packet-boats regularly sail, with the mail, &c. to and from Donaghadee, from whence Portpatrick bears due E. by N. distance about eight leagues.* The packets are all Irish property, and registered for the port of Donaghadee. Portpatrick is the seat of a custom-house, and the importation here of horses and oxen from Donaghadee and Bangor is very great. At Portpatrick are two commodious inns. A mail-coach is established here, and passes regularly to and from Carlisle, distance, 134 miles. For a more minute, and perhaps accurate account of Portpatrick, I refer my readers to the "*Statistical Survey of Scotland*," in which will be found a description of this parish, by the learned and Rev. Doctor Mackenzie, minister thereof. Portpatrick is 140 miles from Edinburgh, 96 from Glasgow, and 83 from Dumfries. From Portpatrick, after a passage of two hours and twenty minutes, we landed at Donaghadee, where we reflected satisfactorily on our excursion, and where a comfortable room, a good dinner, excellent wine, &c. compensated for our boisterous passage, and gave us reason to thank Providence, that we were once more upon *terra-firma*.

M.

Donaghadee.

* Portpatrick belongs to Sir D. H. Blair, bart.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN our last number, having given an analysis of the new discoveries, with regard to potash, communicated by Humphrey Davy, to the Royal Society of London, which we extracted from the London Monthly Magazine, we now from the same publication, give an account of the properties and nature of the basis of Soda.

The basis or metallic substance obtained by decomposition, is a solid at the common temperature. It is white, opaque, and if examined, under a film of naphtha, has the lustre and general appearance of silver. It is exceedingly malleable, and is softer than any of the common metallic substances. It is a good conductor of electricity and heat, and small globules of it inflame, by the voltaic electrical spark, and burn with bright explosions: its specific gravity is something more than 93. It becomes fluid at about 180° of Fahrenheit, but the exact degree of heat at which it becomes volatile, has not been ascertained.

The chemical phenomena produced by the basis of soda, are in many respects, analogous to those produced by the basis of potash: when exposed to the atmosphere it immediately tarnishes, and by degrees becomes covered with a white crust, which deliquesces much more slowly than the substance that forms the basis of potash, and which proves to be pure soda. The basis combines slowly

with oxygen, and without luminous appearance, at all common temperatures, and when heated this combination becomes more rapid, but no light is emitted till it has acquired a temperature nearly to that of ignition. In oxygen gas it burns with a white light: in oxymuriatic acid gas, it burns vividly, with a bright red light; saline matter is formed which proves it to be muriate of soda. When thrown upon water, it produces a violent effervescence, with a loud hissing noise; it combines with the oxygen of the water to form soda which is dissolved, and its hydrogen is disengaged.

The basis of soda acts upon alcohol and ether in the same manner with the basis of potash. The water contained in them is decomposed; soda is rapidly formed, and hydrogen is disengaged. When thrown upon the strong acids, it acts upon them with great energy; if the nitrous acid is employed, a vivid inflammation is produced; with muriatic and sulphuric acids, there is much heat generated, but no light.

It combines with sulphur in close vessels, filled with the vapour of naphtha, with great vividness, with light, heat, and afterwards with explosion from the vaporization of a portion of sulphur, and the disengagement of sulphurated hydrogen gas. The phosphuret has the appearance of lead, and forms phosphate of soda, by exposure to the air, or by combustion. The basis of soda in quantity of one fortieth part renders mercury a fixed solid of the colour of silver, and the combination is attended with a considerable degree of heat. It makes an alloy with tin without changing its colour, and it acts upon lead and gold when heated.

From some very accurate experiments, Mr. Davy has found that 100 parts of potash, consist of 80.1 of the basis, and 13.9 of oxygen: and in 100 parts of soda, there will be 80 parts of the basis, and 20 of oxygen.

To the question, whether the basis of potash and soda should be called metals, Mr. Davy says, that the greater number of philosophical persons answer in the affirmative. They agree with metals in opacity, lustre, malleability, conducting powers, as to heat and electricity, and in their qualities of chemical combination; their low specific gravity does not appear to be a sufficient reason for making them a new class; for among the metals themselves there are remarkable differences in this respect; platina being nearly four times as heavy as tellurium; and in the philosophical division of the classes of bodies, the analogy between the greater number of properties must always be the foundation of arrangement. Hence the basis of the alkalies are denominated, potassium and sodaum.

In reference to his own discoveries, Mr. Davy observes, that, "In the common processes of nature, all the products of living beings may be easily conceived to be elicited from known combinations of matter. The compounds of iron, of the alkalies, and earths with mineral acids, generally abound in soils. From the decomposition of basaltic, porphyretic, and granitic rocks, there is a constant supply of earthy alkaline and ferruginous materials to the surface of the earth. In the sap of all plants that have been examined, certain neutro-saline compounds, containing potash, or soda, or iron, have been found. From plants they may be supplied to animals. And the chemical tendency of organization seems to be rather to combine substances into more complicated and diversified arrangements, than to reduce them to simple elements.

From the fixed alkalies the Professor proceeded to the earths, which are non-conductors of electricity. The alkalies become conducting substances by fusion; the infusible nature of the earths, rendered it impossible to operate upon them in this state: the strong affinity of their basis for oxygen, would not admit of their bodies being acted upon by solution in water; and the only methods that proved successful, were those by which they were operated upon by electricity in some of their combinations, or of combining them at the moment of their decomposition by electricity, in metallic alloys, so as to obtain evidences of their nature and properties.

On this plan, Mr. Davy undertook

a series of experiments on barytes, strontites and lime, employing upon them the same methods as he had used in the decomposition of the fixed alkalies. Gas was, in each case, copiously evolved which was inflammable: and the earths which were in contact with the negative metallic wires became dark-coloured and exhibited small points, having a metallic lustre, which, when exposed to air gradually became white: they became white likewise when plunged under water, and when examined by a magnifier, a greenish powder seemed to separate from them.

He then made mixtures of dry pot-ash in excess, and dry barytes, lime, strontites, and magnesia, brought them into fusion, and acted upon them in the voltaic circuit, as he had done in obtaining the metals of the alkalies. He hoped by this means, that the potassium, and the metals of the earths, might be de-oxygenated at the same time, and enter into combination in alloy. Metallic substances appeared less fusible than potassium, which turned the instant after they had formed, and which, by burning, produced a mixture of potash, and the earth employed. He had found, that when a mixture of potash and the oxides of mercury, tin or lead, was electrified in the voltaic circuit, the decomposition was very rapid and an amalgam on an alloy of potassium was obtained. He tried the same on a mixture of two parts of barytes and one part of oxide of silver, very slightly moistened; when it was electrified by iron wires, an effervescence took place at both points of contact, and a minute quantity of a substance possessing the whiteness of silver, formed at the negative point.

A mixture of barytes and red oxide of mercury, in the same proportions was electrified in the same manner. A small mass of solid amalgam adhered to the negative wire, which evidently contained a substance that produced barytes by exposure to air, with the absorption of oxygen, and which occasioned the evolution of hydrogen from the water, leaving pure mercury, and producing a solution of barytes. Mixtures of lime, strontites, magnesia, and red oxide of mercury treated in the same manner, gave similar amalgams, from which the alkaline earths were regenerated by the action of air and water.

While Mr. Davy was pursuing these experiments, he heard that Professor Berzelius, and Doctor Pontin of Stockholm, had succeeded in decomposing barytes and lime, by negatively electrifying mercury in contact with them, and that in this way they had obtained amalgams of the metals of these earths. Mr. Davy repeated the experiments with a battery of 500 and obtained the most perfect success. The mercury gradually became less fluid, and after a few minutes was covered with a white film of barytes, and when the amalgam was thrown into water, the hydrogen was disengaged, the mercury remained free and a solution of barytes was formed. The result with lime was precisely analogous, so also was that of the strontites; with magnesia it was with more difficulty obtained.

All these amalgams may be preserved a considerable time under naphtha, but in a length of time they become covered with a white crust. When exposed to air, a very few minutes only were required, for the oxygenation of the bases of the earths.

In several cases Mr. Davy exposed the amalgams of the metals of the earths containing a very small quantity of mercury, to the air on a delicate balance, and he always found that during the conversion of the metal into earth, there was a considerable increase of weight. He also found, that, when the metals of the earths were burned in a small quantity of air, they absorbed oxygen, gained weight, and were in a highly caustic and unslacked state; for they produced strong heat by the contact o the water, and did not effervesce during their solution in acids. Hence it is inferred, that the evidence for the composition of the alkaline earths is of the same kind as that for the composition of the common metalic oxides; and the principles of their decomposition are precisely similar; the inflammable matters in all cases, separating at the negative surface in

the voltaic circuit, and the oxygen at the positive surface. The professor denominates the metals obtained from the alkaline earths, *barium*, *strontium*, *calcium*, and *magnium*.

The professor next tried a number of experiments on the other earths, which were not alkaline, and from the general tenor of these results, and the comparison between the different series of experiments, there seems very great reason to conclude that alumine, zircon glucine, and silex, are, like the alkaline earths metallic oxides. He admits, however that the evidences of decomposition and composition are not of the same strict nature as those that belong to the fixed alkalies and alkaline earths; for it is possible that in the experiments on which silex, alumine, and zircon appeared to separate during the oxidation of the potassium and sodaum, their bases might not actually have been in combination with them, but the earths themselves, in union with the metals of the alkalies, or in mere mechanical mixture.

The strong attraction of potassium, sodaum, and the metals of the alkaline earths for oxygen, led Mr. Davy to examine if their de-oxydating power could not be made to produce the effect of the amalgamation of ammonia, independently of the agency of electricity; and he found, that, when mercury, united to a small quantity of potassium, sodaum, barium or calcium, was made to act upon moistened muriate of ammonia, the amalgam rapidly increased to six or seven times its volume, and the compound seemed to contain much more ammonaical basis than that procured by electrical powers.

The amalgam from ammonia, when formed at the temperature of 70° or 80°, is a soft solid, of the consistence of butter; at the freezing temperature it becomes firmer and a crystallized mass, and its specific gravity below 3. When exposed to air, it soon becomes covered with a white crust, which proves to be carbonate of ammonia.

"The more," says Mr. Davy, "the properties of the amalgam, obtained from ammonia, are considered, the more extraordinary do they appear. Mercury, by combination with about the $\frac{1}{17.58}$ part of its weight of new matter is rendered solid, yet its specific gravity diminished from 13. 5 to less than 3, and it retains all its metallic characters; its colour, lustre, opacity, and conducting powers, remaining unimpaired. It is scarcely possible to conceive, that a substance which forms with mercury so perfect an amalgam, should not be metallic in its own nature; hence it is denominated ammonium."

From the preceding facts, the following questions have occurred: On what do the metallic properties of ammonium depend? Are hydrogen and nitrogen, both metals in the aëriform state, at the usual temperature of the atmosphere, bodies of the same character as zinc and quicksilver would be in the heat of ignition? Or, are these gasses in their common form, oxides, which become metallized by de-oxidation? Or, are they simple bodies, not metallic in their own nature, but capable of composing a metal in their de-oxyginated, and an alkali in their oxygenated state?

Assuming the existence of hydrogen, in the amalgam of ammonium, its presence in one metallic compound evidently leads to the suspicion of its combination in others. And in the electrical powers of the different species of matter, there are circumstances that extend the idea to combustible substances in general. Oxygen is the only body which can be supposed elementary, attracted by the positive substance in the electrical circuit; and all compound bodies, the nature of which is known, that are attracted by the surface, contain a considerable proportion of oxygen. Hydrogen is the only matter attracted by the negative surface, which can be considered as acting the opposite part to oxygen; "may not then," says the Professor, "the different inflammable bodies contain this as a common element?"

Should future experiments prove the truth of this hypothesis, still the alkalies, the earths and the metallic oxides, will belong to the same class of bodies. From platina to potassium there is a regular order of gradation as to their physical and chemical properties, and this would probably extend to ammonium, could it be obtained in the fixed

form. Platina and gold, in specific gravity, degree of oxydability, and other qualities, differ more from arsenic, iron, and tin than these last do from barium and strontium. The phenomena of combustion of all oxydable metals, are precisely analogous. In the burning in air, potassium forms an alkali, and calcium an earth; in a manner similar to that in which osmium forms a volatile and acrid substance by absorption of oxygen, does the amalgam of ammonium produce the volatile alkali? and, if we suppose the ammonia is metallized, by being combined with hydrogen, and freed from water, the same reasoning will apply to the other metals, with this difference, that the adherence of their phlogiston of hydrogen, would be exactly in the inverse ratio of their attraction for oxygen. In platina it would be combined with the greatest energy; in ammonium with the least; and if it be separable from any of the metals, without the aid of a new combination, we may expect that this result will be afforded by the most volatile and oxydable, such as arsenic, or other metals of the fixed alkalies, submitted to intense heat under electrical polarities, and having the pressure of the atmosphere removed.

Mr. Davy concludes by hoping, that the new facts which he has discovered, may admit of many applications, and explain some phenomena in nature. "The metals of the earths," he says, "cannot exist at the surface of the globe; but it is very possible that they may form a part of the interior; and such an assumption would offer a theory for the phenomena of volcanoes, the formation of lavas, and the effects and excitements of subterraneous heat; for let it be granted that the metals of the earths and alkalies, in alloy with common metals, exist in large quantities beneath the surface; then their accidental exposure to the action of the air and water must produce the effect of subterranean fire, and a product of earthy and stony matters analogous to lavas.

"The luminous appearance of those meteors, connected with the fall of stones is one of the extraordinary circumstances of these wonderful phenomena. This effect may be accounted for, by supposing that the substances which fall, come into our atmosphere in a metallic state, and that the earths of which they principally consist are the results of combustion."

At the meeting of the Royal Society, Feb. 2, a most curious and interesting paper, by Mr. Davy, was read, giving an account of various experiments on the action of potassium on ammonia, from which it appears, that a considerable quantity of nitrogen can be made to disappear, and can be regenerated. When it disappears, nothing can be obtained in its place but oxygen, and hydrogen; and when it is formed, its elementary matter is furnished by water.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

IN the tale of "the Cottagers of Glenburnie," honourable and deserved notice is taken of David Manson, who so long and so successfully filled the respectable situation of instructor of youth in the town of Belfast. He may be considered the precursor of Lancaster, in facilitating the modes of instruction. I would be highly gratified if any of your readers would furnish, through your Miscellany, a sketch of his life, and particularly of the modes of instructing and managing youth, which he so advantageously practised.

As biography may be made so very useful in conveying lessons both to young and old, I wish to see many of your pages filled with interesting accounts of persons eminent in their respective lines. They who have been residents in your town or province, have peculiar claims on your notice; the memoirs of such might have a good effect in stimulating others to follow virtuous examples. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE DECOMPOSITION OF THE EARTHS.

IN arts and sciences the progress of discovery has been extremely slow, some of these have arrived early at comparative perfection, while others remained for ages in a state of infancy, involved in the darkest obscurity, or confined to some very erroneous principles. It is curious to reflect, that though the science of chemistry was

not altogether unknown, though the changes in the properties of matter could not but attract attention, we find it entirely neglected in the time of the Romans, at a period when their language and some of the arts had arrived at an unrivalled state of elegance and perfection; for, if we except some observations on metallurgy, few traces of this engaging science can be seen in their works. The art of dying had indeed made some progress, and Pliny seems to be acquainted with the method of making glass; it does not seem that they attended even to alchemy, which promised so many advantages, nor is it sooner than the time of Constantine the Great, that we find two authors, Julius Maternus Firmicius, and Æneas Gazeus writing expressly on this subject; but their works, as might be expected, are full of fanciful projects and chimerical ideas. The doctrine of the elementary bodies, which prevailed for many centuries, is most completely overturned; their four simples, fire, water, earth and air, have been gradually converted into compounds, the properties of which are now nearly developed by sober investigation and philosophical research.

Fire, the first element of the ancients, is composed of light and caloric; air, of azote and oxygen; water, which was also thought to be an unchangeable element, till the time of Van Helmont, was about thirty-three years ago proved to be formed of oxygen and hydrogen, by Macquer, and Sigoud de la Fond; and five years afterwards Watt Cavendish and Lavoisier, both by synthesis, and analysis, fully verified the truth of the discovery.

Earth, in the acceptation by which it was distinguished as an element, is comprised of no less than nine different substances, commonly called earths; these are,

1. Lime, which has been known and used in medicine, since the earliest ages.

2. Magnesia, discovered about a hundred years ago, and described in succession by Valentini, Frederick Hoffman, Dr. Black, Margraff, Bergman and Butini.

3. Alumine, which was long known in a compound state, but its properties were not ascertained sooner than the year 1727, when Geoffry Junior showed that it constituted a part of clay; it was afterwards described by Margraff, Morveau, Macquer, Bergman, Scheele and Saussure.

4. Barytes, discovered by Scheele, in 1774.

5. Strontian, first analysed in 1793, by Dr. Hope, Klaproth, and Mr. Kirwan.

6. Yttria, the properties of this earth were demonstrated about twenty years ago, by Geyer and Rinman, and afterwards by Gadolin, Ekeberg, Klaproth and Vauquelin.

7. Zirconia, analysed in 1789, by Klaproth, and afterwards by Guyton Morveau and Vauquelin.

8. Glucina, discovered in 1798, by Vauquelin, and described afterwards by Klaproth and others.

9. Silica, which seems to have been known to Pott, Geoffry and Beaumé, but not described in a satisfactory manner, till analysed by Scheele, Cartheuser and Bergman.

These nine earths and the two fixed alkalies, were, till very lately classed by most writers among the simple or elementary bodies; it was reserved for the industrious and indefatigable Davy to decompose and demonstrate, in the plainest manner, by means of Galvanism, that the earths are metallic oxides. The object of this paper however is not to show how these curious researches were conducted (as that may be seen in the elaborate accounts of the author) but to remind the reader, that while Mr. Davy is deservedly extolled with enthusiasm, while his industry and assiduity are looked up to as exemplary, and while a portion of success crowns his exertions, which seldom falls to the lot of any individual, we are not to forget that the justly celebrated Lavoisier, with his usual sagacity, had concluded from several circumstances that the earths were *metallic oxides*, and that several other philosophers appear to have been quite confident of the fact. We even find that about nineteen years ago, some experiments were made in the laboratory of the Academy of the Mines at Chemmitz, in lower Hungary, by Messrs. Tondi and Ruprecht, in which they were certain of having decomposed lime, magnesia, and barytes

by means of charcoal, and to have procured the *metallic bases*, by causing their oxygen to combine with that substance.* An account of these experiments is given in a description of the cabinet of Madamoiselle Raab of Vienna, by Baron Born, and in the third and fourth edition of Lavoisier's elements of chemistry by Mr. Kerr, the translator. Baron Born, in this account, remarks that he expects soon to learn that the siliceous and argillaceous earths, are likwise *metallic orides*. Mr. Kerr has also some very just and curious remarks on this subject, in which he refers hydrogen and azote, carbon, sulphur, and phosphorus, to the metallic class.

The following are the most striking analogies which exist between the earths and metallic oxides:

1. The earths may be reduced to white powders which form coloured salts with acids.

2. They are precipitated by prussiate of potash and tincture of galls.

3. None of the earths are combustible, and of course none of them are capable of combining with oxygen.

4. They are soluble in acids† without decomposing either water or the acid, to acquire oxygen, and consequently without effervescence; so are all metallic oxides, for no pure metal is soluble in an acid, unless it either decompose the acid or water, that it may be converted into an oxid, it was this circumstance that induced the great, but unfortunate Lavoisier to observe, that, "since oxygen is the bond of union between acids and metals, so it is between earths and acids, and that the earths are *metallic orides*, with which oxygen has a stronger affinity, than with carbon."

Now, if it added so much to the glory of Sir Isaac Newton, to have concluded from the strong refracting power of water, that it contained a combustible body, though he was ignorant of its component parts; and if Vauquelin was led to the true analysis of the beryl, by the intimation he received from the discerning Huay, who concluded from mineralogical considerations, that it was formed of the same ingredients as the emerald, though he was unable to decompose it. If Huay was deservedly praised for this, what share is due to those who not twenty years since were almost satisfied of the *metallic nature* of the earths, though they were not acquainted with the means of demonstrating that fact by experiment? Or, in analyzing a mineral, or compound of any kind, with what ease might we proceed, if previously informed of what elements it consisted?

Let us then, in congratulating Mr. Davy on his unexampled success, impartially reflect on what was effected by those who went before him; let us weigh the distinct merits of each, and bestow on each a proportionate share of approbation.

Reddere cuique sua, est æqui bonique hominis. J. M. *S.*

Belfast, May 12, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine

SIR,

AS there are some expressions, in the Review of my Introduction to the Irish Language, published in your Magazine, for March last, which tend directly (though, I am persuaded unintentionally) to mislead a person who is not a judge of the subject; I request, and expect of your partiality, the insertion of the following explanations.

I rest my pretensions to originality upon the conviction that at least *nine tenths* of my work, consist of matter that was never before published. A coincidence with other writers, in some things, must appear, even where there was nothing borrowed.

The number of moods, *modes* or *manners* of expression, is not greater than what is marked out by manifest differences. And the tenses are simply, past, present, and future, with the addition of the consuetudinal, a tense of the most expressive use in the Irish language. Nor will it appear strange that the Irish regu-

*In these experiments they must have been deceived; for though charcoal at a high temperature, has such an affinity for oxygen, as to be able to decompose water and most metallic oxides, yet it is certain that the earths cannot be decomposed by its means, since their base has a greater affinity for oxygen than charcoal has at any temperature we can produce,

† Silica excepted, soluble only in fluoric acid.

lar verb, which undergoes *eleven* inflexions, besides the personal terminations should be conjugated through five moods, and *four* tenses; when it is considered that many of the ablest grammarians, inflect the English verb through five moods, and *six* tenses, though it undergoes only *three* variations. The very different form assumed by several verbs, when used affirmatively, negatively, and interrogatively, suggested the propriety of exhibiting them at large. Indeed copiousness has been my object throughout; as I conceived it more useful to publish a book which a man might consult, than one that a child might get by rote. I believe the scheme of Irish verbs exhibited at pages 62, and 66, is more *concise*, and complete than any thing published before on the same subject.

But the most singular sentence in the review is the following. "The work also contains *some* familiar dialogues which will be useful to the student, and a translation of the songs of Deardra, from the death of the three sons of Usna. If these were intended for an exercise to learners, they are too loosely translated."

Whether the incorrect punctuation here be *intentional* or not, I cannot determine; but it certainly implies that the translation of the dialogues, &c. (comprising 84 pages, on a variety of subjects) and that of the *three* songs is equally free. This is incorrect. The former are translated with great closeness; the latter with that freedom which is observed in the most elegant translations.

The standard of orthography, which I have always followed, is the Irish Bible, published nearly 130 years ago, by bishop Bedel. When a better shall be invented, I shall readily adopt it; in the mean time, it is sufficient to observe that the ancient manuscripts afford no *one* such standard

I am sir, yours &c.

Dundalk, May 5, 1809. W. NEILSON.

P. S. I forbear to make any remarks upon the anonymous grammar recently published; as I think the compiler of one grammar not the most proper person to review the similar work of another.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE COMPARATIVE STRENGTH OF BARILLA AND POTASH.

I AM pleased to find that your Magazine gives an account of the new discoveries in chemistry, and thus may serve as a literary journal of the progress in the sciences and the arts, after the model of the most respectable British Magazines—a line hitherto very seldom attempted in Ireland, but in which I trust you will persevere. You must frequently borrow from brother Journalists, who live nearer to the sources of intelligence; but when you candidly acknowledge your obligations, all is fair. Practical communications on subjects relating to the staple manufacture of Ireland, particularly that part of it so closely connected with chemistry, might be very serviceable. To contribute my share, and in hopes of drawing forth similar contributions from others, I send an account of some experiments lately made at my bleach-green on the comparative of barilla and potash by means of the alkaline hydrometer, graduated so, that 0 stands for water and 3¼ to 4 denotes the strength used for the ley in bleaching. An equal weight of the following alkalies, dissolved in similar quantities of water, produced the following results:

Barilla,.....	3¼
Montreal Potash,	6½
New York ditto.	6¾

Or in round numbers the comparative strength of those materials was in the following proportion, and consequent value in bleaching viz.

Barilla,.....	15
Montreal Potash,	26
New York ditto.	25

So that as an efficacious material in bleaching, barilla does not appear to be worth more than three fifths of the value of potash. K.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE HERRING.

Concluded from p. 245, *No. IX.*

THE herring is very much exposed to pursuit; man above all is its particular foe, not only along the coasts, but sometimes even in the open

sea, as is the case with the Dutch, who fit out entire fleets to seek them in the ocean. The whale also, particularly that species called *Nord-caper*,* destroys them by thousands. This creature turns itself round with such rapidity, that it not only receives a large quantity of herrings into its mouth, as into an immense gulf, but causes an agitation in the waters, which is sensibly felt by any boats in its vicinity.†

The water-fowl also, and in particular the herring-gull,‡ pounce by thousands on them from the air. This bird directs the fishermen to the proper places for laying their nets. When it flies high, it is a sign that the herring is near the bottom; when low, it shows that the herring is moving near the surface; should the weather be very hot, the fish keeps near the bottom, where the bird can neither see it, nor point it out, and the fishing is then generally bad.

We have already said that the Baltic trout (Salmo Lavaretus) follows the herring to eat its eggs, and thus is an obstacle to its increase; the same may be said of the Salmon trout (Salmo Trutta.)

Many kinds of fish in the ocean are found to be very numerous, such as the smelt (Salmo Eperlanus) the sole, the cod,§ the Shad (Clupea Alosa) and the sprat (Clupea Sprattus) but none so much as the herring.

During many ages, man has destroyed at least a thousand million annually; other animals devour an equal quantity without any diminution of the prodigious numbers of this fish. We may form a judgment of this quantity from the following fact: in the single parish of Svanoe, in Norway, such a number of herrings were caught in one year, as filled eighty *jagts*. It requires an hundred tons to load a *jagt*, and one ton contains 1200 small herrings of the North. Now according to Pontoppidan, an equal quantity are stifled in the strait, on account of their numbers; we may therefore conclude that there are in this place about 19,000,000. According to the same author, as many herrings may be caught in a single haul of the net as would fill an hundred *jagts*, that is, ten thousand tons. Finally, M. Fabricius assures us that by enclosing an arm of the sea with a net, many thousand tons may be caught. In Norway, as the herring constitutes the principal part of the food of the inhabitants it has been called the king of fishes. From Berghen alone they export several hundred cargoes annually. In 1752, when the fishery was by no means abundant, 132,156 tons were exported from this city, between the months of January and October, without including what were exported towards the end of the year. If we count all those which are sent from other towns, the great quantity consumed in the country, or used for bait, we may calculate that in this country alone they take on an average annually, the quantity of 396,468 tons, and supposing each ton to contain 1200 fish, makes their number 415,739,600.

The Dutch annually send a thousand or twelve hundred hoys to the herring fishery. Twenty-five lasts are generally supposed to be the cargo of a hoy, and it often happens that many are filled a second time, when the first cargoes have been expeditiously landed. Suppose there are but a thousand hoys, and allow twenty-five lasts to each, and a thousand herrings to the ton, each last contains twelve tons; whence it appears that the Dutch annually catch 300,000,000 herrings. Not fewer are caught in Scotland and Ireland; thirty thousand tons are annually sent to France, from Clyde, in Scotland, and forty thousand from Yarmouth. Sometimes the take of fish is so great in this place, that it gives employment to eleven hundred vessels, which contain 140,000,000 herrings; if to this

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* Balœna Glacialis.

† We may judge by an anecdote related by Horrebow, how many herrings one of these fishes can swallow at once. The Icelanders once seized a whale which having approached too near the shore while it was in pursuit of hake (*Gadus Merluccius*) was left dry on the bank, they found in its stomach six hundred live hake, besides a great quantity of sprats, and some water-fowl.

‡ Larus fuscus, L.

§ Schonevelde, calls the cod-fish (Gadus morhua) Kablaun. And Linné in his "Fauna Suecica" calls it Cabblia. Can Cabliau be the same? Trans.

be added those taken on the coasts of England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Brabant and Flanders, the quantity will be immense. In 1776, different towns in Ireland sent three hundred and twenty-seven boats to the herring fishery, each boat on an average took 100,000, making in all 32,700,000. The French save about 60,000 tons annually. In Chesepeake-bay the inundations throw up such quantities on the shore as to occasion fatal consequences from the putrefaction. In the neighbourhood of Gottenburgh in Sweden, they are also taken in large quantities, and 200,000 tons are saved annually: besides this 400,000 tons are used annually for extracting the oil. In 1780, from twenty-five to twenty-seven thousand tons of oil were exported; but in 1781, not more than twenty-two thousand. In addition to this must be reckoned fifty thousand tons of fresh herrings either consumed in the country or sent to Denmark. Now reckoning the ton at 1,200 herrings, upwards of 720,000,000 fish are annually destroyed in this small district.

Lapland is also supplied with this fish. According to the account of Ysbrand, and Kraschennennikow, they may be also found in considerable numbers in Kamtskatka, where four tons are often caught at one draught. We must also take into consideration those on the shores of the Baltic.—The inhabitants of Holstein, Mecklenburgh and Swedish Pomerania also take them in great numbers every year; of these some are salted, others smoked and sent out of the country, without reckoning such as are consumed in Livonia and the other countries on the shores of the Baltic.

The nets and boats used in the herring fishery, are of different sizes. Those employed by sailors near the coasts, are smaller than what are used in the open sea. The Dutch hoys are generally from forty-eight to sixty tons burden; some however are from eighty to a hundred, the largest of which contain sixty lasts. Three or four *jagts* are required for each hoy, to supply them with provisions, and to receive the herrings caught in the three first months, and to convey them as expeditiously as possible to the nearest ports. According to a decree of the magistrates, the Dutch nets ought to be five or six hundred fathoms in length, and to consist of fifty or sixty parts. At present they are made of a kind of coarse Persian silk, of a texture so durable, that a net of this kind lasts three years, while one of hemp serves but for one. They are blackened by the smoke of chips, that the brightness of their colour may not alarm the fish. On the upper side they are kept afloat by casks, and stones fastened on the other edge force it to sink. The nets are cast at night because the fishery of herrings like that of most other species is then most successful. Herrings are also apt to be attracted by the light; for this reason lanthorns are suspended to the hoys in order to entice them to the nets, which are sometimes so full that a single one is often found to contain from ten to eleven lasts. This fish also takes the bait. Mr. Low assures us that he has caught many thousand with a trout fly. The fishermen often make use of the hook to discover the place where the fish may be found; they throw out a line, and when they catch a herring they think the situation favourable.

This fish is salted in two different ways; one of which makes what is called the white herring, the other the smoked herring. The former is prepared in the following manner.—As soon as the fish is taken out of the water, the throat is cut and the entrails taken out: it is then put into a brine so thick that a herring will float on its surface. At the end of sixteen or eighteen hours they are taken out and put into the ton, for the quantity is so great that it does not allow of their being embowelled immediately in the ship as should be done. But as this is not sufficient to secure them from putrefaction, they are spread out on benches as soon as they are brought to land and again sprinkled with salt. Five pounds of Spanish salt, together with fresh brine is employed for each ton. In Holland, the brine is made under the eye of the government. According to the laws of this country the good and bad are bar-

relled up separately, and their comparative value marked by a brand on the cask. They also take care that the casks be made of oak, and to join the pieces closely, lest the brine should waste and the herrings spoil. In the other method of saving them the herrings remain longer in the brine, that is for twenty-four hours at least. When taken out, they are strung up by the heads on small wooden skewers, and hung up in chimnies made for the purpose, called *roussables:* beneath this is placed a small wood fire so arranged as to produce little heat and much smoke. They remain in the stove until they are sufficiently browned and smoked: which generally is the case in twenty four hours; they are then put into casks or laid in straw. The largest herrings are generally chosen for this purpose, and the Dutch smoked herrings are preferred to all others.* In Sweden and Norway they are prepared in a different manner; less salt is used, and they are laid in casks either perforated or entirely open. The Irish dry their herrings on the rocks, and the Greenlanders in the air.

Salt herring when eaten in small quantities is not injurious to the health, on the contrary it is peculiarly serviceable to such as have lost their appetite through a weakness of the stomach; but it has a different effect on those who have an abscess on the lungs, or in any other part of the body, either internal or external, or even on those who are of a scorbutic habit.

The herring can be removed from one part of the sea to another as has been practised with success in Sweden. They can also be multiplied by means of their eggs, as may be seen by the following passage extracted from the travels of Peter Kalms. As the passage agrees so well with my subject, I shall quote it all together.

"Mr. Franklin told me the following fact: In the part of New England where his father lived, two rivers discharge themselves into the sea, in one of which a prodigious quantity of herrings were caught, while none could be found in the other, though the mouths of both were contiguous. It had been remarked that the herrings went up every spring to the same river, in order to lay their eggs. M. Franklin, who lived between the two rivers, thought it might be possible to make the herrings go up the other river also. For this purpose he took the nets to which the fish had fastened their eggs, and laid them in the other river, where they were hatched. The experiment succeeded, and every year after herrings were caught in this river. However this may be, it serves to show that fish like to return to the places where they were born, and where they have entered the first time they quitted the main ocean, in order to spawn in the place to which they have been accustomed."

The cavity of the belly in the herring is long, the melt and ovary are double. The latter weighed seven drams in a middle sized herring, and contained 68,656 eggs, which were white, and very small. But as Harmer found but 10,000 in one herring, it is probable that the fish which he inspected had been caught at the spawning time, and had discharged part of its eggs. The air-vesicle is simple, and terminates in a point at each end. The stomach consists of a thin skin; the internal canal is strait, short, and encompassed with twelve appendices. There are thirty-five ribs on each side, and fifty-six vertebræ in the dorsal spine.

This fish, when it comes from the Northern Ocean, is called

Heering, Hering, in Germany.

Strohmling, when it comes from the Baltic.

Buckling, when it is smoked.

Strohmling, Strimmales, Silk, Konn, and *Kenge,* in Livonia.

Sill, in Sweden, when it is of a large size.

*The common suffrage of all nations confirms it that the Dutch herrings are the best. No other cause can be assigned for this general preference than the scrupulous adherence to the regulations and provisions just mentioned, it being by no means true that the art of curing, salting, and packing herrings is confined to the Dutch alone.

Tilloch Phil. Mag. xvi. *p.* 47.

Stroming, or *Stromling*, when it is small.

Sild, *Quale-sild*, and *Grabeen-sild*, in Denmark, when it is large, *Stromling* when it is small.

Straale-sild, and *Guate-sild*, in Norway.

Kapiselikan, in Greenland.

Beltschutsch, in Kamskatka.

Haring, in Holland.

Herring, in England.

Hareng, in France.

To be continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE EXCURSION....A DIALOGUE.

MRS. E. You say there was something wanting to complete the happiness which you hoped to enjoy in your excursion yesterday.

Mary. Yes Ma'am, and without that something I would have preferred staying at home.

Mrs. E. Pray were your companions disagreeable?

Mary. No, I could not find fault with them, they were very obliging.

Mrs. E. Was your conveyance inconvenient?

Mary. Our carriage was completely calculated not only for ease, but that we might behold all the surrounding beauties.

Mrs. E. Were you uncomfortable at having left home, or what was the cause of your dissatisfaction?

Mary. Having left every thing regulated at home, and in good hands, I set out without any anxiety, and was rejoiced at the prospect of beholding a country famous for its beauty; and the idea of travelling with my old school-fellows, was an additional pleasure. As soon as we were in sight of a small portion of the beautiful scenery which was new to me, I admired aloud every thing which struck me; my companions answered "it was very pretty," and continued the discourse which they had just commenced about the convenience of hats and habits for travelling. I was a little disappointed, but as we advanced farther into that enchanting country, so amply enriched with variety of scenery both fertile and wildly sublime, I thought surely their admiration would be called forth, but what was my astonishment and mortification that they still continued their trivial conversation, and seemed to grow tired of my remarks, not even granting me the two words "very pretty." I then endeavoured to be silent and to enjoy myself without their assistance; but I found it was impossible to have complete happiness without participation. Sometimes I incommoded my friends by turning round to look at every side. Almost at the end of our drive we descended into a deep glen, the solemnity and grandeur of which enraptured me. I considered what enjoyment I should have if I was there alone, and at liberty to walk slow, and to climb up the sides, from the top of which I was sure there were lovely prospects; I also considered that I might probably never be there again, and was extremely mortified to be driving through it, as if it were the most uninteresting place in the world; but as we professed to be on a party of pleasure, I requested to be let down to walk there until they returned; they were very unwilling, but said if I chose to be so odd I might do as I pleased: accordingly I got out, and never did I behold any thing to equal the beauties around me. But there was something wanting; my heart was overflowing with rapturous delight, but there was no one to participate with me. But to be alone was much better than to be listening to conversation which so disagreed with my feelings. My companions returned and took me up. I was silent most of the remainder of the journey, although I strove to enter into their discourse, but I found it impossible: now you know the whole cause of my dissatisfaction.

Mrs. E. I perfectly understand all the sensations of pain and pleasure, you have related. You are very young; you feel your heart glowing with admiration of nature; your natural warmth and sociability of disposition causes you to wish for participation, and your inexperience causes you to be disappointed and mortified when you meet with contrary characters; but wait a little while, and you will find your passions will become cooler, and experience

will cause you not to expect to meet with persons of similar dispositions: yet you will retain a temperate and sweet admiration of nature, and when chance leads you to mix with characters to your taste, you will also feel a temperate but lasting pleasure—Do not despise moderation—Do not confound it with stupidity; they inspire their votaries with far different sensations: but your own good sense assisted by experience will be of more use to you than any thing I can say.

ELIZA.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

LIFE OF THE EARL OF MACARTNEY.

Continued from p. 285, No. IX.

ABOUT this time the Court of Directors of the East India Company were looking out for a proper person to fill the Presidency of Madras. The enormous abuses which had been committed by a succession of weak or wicked governors, who had attained this station, through no merit of their own, but merely by the routine of service, loudly called for reformation, and it was evident to every man of sense and honesty, that in order to restore the reputation of the adminstration, and establish the affairs of the company on a firm basis, the choice must fall on a man of known capacity, integrity and firmness. Notwithstanding the great difficulties that appeared, many candidates presented themselves. The choice at length, after some opposition, fell upon Lord Macartney; so universal was the prepossession in his favour, both among the directors and proprietors, that he was appointed without the usual forms of a ballot.

Immediately after receiving his appointment, he set out to take possession of his charge, and at the beginning of June, 1781, arrived at Madras. On inquiring into the general state of affairs he found them still worse than they had been represented. A war had been declared against the English by Hyder Ali, who had followed up this declaration, by an invasion of the Carnatic. At the head of an army of 100,000 cavalry, he over-ran the Carnatic, spreading desolation on every side, and gratifying his hatred of the English, by the indiscriminate slaughter of every one subjected to their dominion. The country was depopulated. Those who escaped the sword, fled to the seat of government for shelter and support. The city of Madras, surrounded on every side by large detachments of the marauding Indians, who daily approached to the very gates, was forced to depend on the precarious subsistence procured by sea. The multitudes which flocked in, increased the pressure of public calamity. The British government, which, either through contempt or ignorance, had neglected to make the proper preparations, wasted the time that should have been employed in opposing the enemy, in useless recrimination. The army was badly paid; the native troops deserted in numbers to the enemy. Those which remained were disabled, through want of cavalry and military stores, from taking the field. And the only two allies to whom the English could look for relief, the Nabob of Arcot, and the Rájah of Tanjore sent in supplies sparingly and with reluctance. To complete all, a war which broke out between England and the United Provinces added a formidable enemy to the number against which the British Government in India had to contend.

At this crisis Lord Macartney assumed the reins. By employing all his influence, both public and private, he collected means sufficient to satisfy the troops for the present, and inspire them with better hopes for the future, and immediately taking advantage of the spirit thus raised, led them out, and gained several important advantages over the enemy. At the same time conscious of the difficulties against which he had to struggle he made proposals to Hyder Ali for a pacification. The reply of this chieftain shows that the conduct of the English in similar cases had been such as to render their fidelity in keeping the engagements entered into with the native powers more than doubtful. "The governors and sir-

dars," says he, "who enter into treaties, after one or two years return to Europe, and their acts and deeds become of no effect. Prior to your coming, when the governor and council of Madras had departed from their treaty of alliance and friendship, I sent my agent to confer with them, and to ask the reason of such breach of faith; the answer given was, that they who had made these conditions were gone to Europe." This conduct was attended by such consequences as might have been expected. Hyder Ali preferred entering into a close alliance with the French and Dutch in the hope that their united arms would be able to exterminate the British power in India.

This is not the proper place to enter into the details of a campaign in the operations of which the subject of this memoir did not take an active part, though he may be justly stiled the main-spring, the vital principle, as it was by his superintendence that the officers commanding were able to gain such signal advantages as retrieved the affairs of the English, and gave them reason to hope for more solid success in future; yet the following summary of events proves that the company were not mistaken in their opinion of the person in whom they reposed so great a trust.

In the first six months of his administration the main army, effectually assisted by the exertions of the presidency, without which it could not possibly have kept the field from the total want of pay and provisions, was enabled to bring the enemy to two decisive actions and to gain the two important victories at Portonovo and Conjeveram. By well planned enterprises and by detachments from the garrison of Madras was effected the capture and destruction of the Dutch settlements of Sadras, Pulicat, Madepollam, Policat, Bimlipatam, and Negapatam, thereby dissolving the connection that had been formed between this power and Hyder Ali, annihilating its influence on the Coromandel coast, and driving the enemy out of the Tanjore country; and these successes were crowned by the assignment made by the nabob of Arcot to Lord Macartney, for the use of the company, of the revenues of the Carnatic; thus taking them out of the hands of the rapacious Mahomedan agents of the nabob, who employed their power to oppress the natives and enrich themselves, and lodging them in hands through which they could be applied to the service of the company.

In the following year Lord Macartney had new difficulties to contend against. His active interference in all departments of the administration, both civil and military, had excited the jealousy of the commanders both by sea and land. Sir Eyre Coote, a general of ability and experience, finding that he could not exert the unlimited controul over all military arrangements, which he had been accustomed to exercise, permitted his private feelings to prevail over his public duty, and after a fruitless endeavour to raise the military department to an independence on the civil, during which he threw many obstacles in the way of the presidency, which retarded the progress of success, he retired to Bengal, under the excuse of ill health. The admiral also, Sir Edward Hughes, after having successfully opposed and baffled at sea his active and persevering antagonist Suffrein, towards the close of the year, formed the resolution of going round the peninsula to Bombay to refit, and notwithstanding the urgent remonstrances of the government of Madras, which foresaw that the preservation of that part of the British dominion depended principally on its naval superiority, he adhered to this determination. The consequence would have been fatal, had the French admiral taken advantage of his departure, and blocked up the harbour; but as he had heard of the arrival of another English squadron in these seas, he was afraid to expose his shattered fleet to new assaults, and left the settlement unmolested.

The death of Hyder Ali, which occurred at the end of this year, afforded a prospect of a favourable change. But this was soon clouded. His son, Tippoo Saheb, who succeeded him, inherited all his father's animosity, and seemed to possess superior means of giving it efficacy. With the money

which he found in the treasury, he paid off the soldier's arrears; he abolished the duties on provisions sold in the camp, and adopted a system of indulgence to the troops, directly opposite to the severe policy of his father. Thus by some well-timed popular acts, and the hopes which a new reign generally inspires, as well as by the adoption of European discipline, he threatened to become a more formidable opponent to the British power than ever Hyder Ali was.*

After the departure of Sir Eyre Coote, the command devolved on General Stewart. This officer seems to have assumed the ideas of his predecessor along with his rank, and to have employed his thoughts much more in counteracting the views of the president, than those of the common enemy. He employed every invention to protract his departure from Madras, whence he was ordered to proceed to attack Cuddalore; and when at last he did set out, he contrived to prolong a march of 100 miles, the distance between the two places, from the 21st of April to the beginning of June. Nor did his conduct change on his arrival before the fortress. Through a defect in the mode of communicating orders to the several parts of the army, the three columns formed for the attack, on whose simultaneous effort much of the success depended, advanced singly and unsupported. The town indeed was taken, but it cost the lives of 60 British officers and nearly 1000 men, a loss severely felt in an European army, in India. On the general's return, Lord Macartney found it necessary to take a decided step for the preservation of the settlement, and accordingly declared him disqualified for assisting the public service either in the cabinet or the field in future, and dismissed him from the company's employ. This exertion of authority involved Lord Macartney in a duel on his return to England, in which he received a wound. Nor was it attended at the time with the immediate good effects expected from it. The spirit of discontent, joined to the idea of the independence of the military to the civil establishment, had insinuated itself so far, that major general Burgoyne, the next in rank, declined accepting the command, and the president found it necessary, rather than relinquish his claims, to raise colonel Lang, the senior infantry officer, to the rank of lieutenant general, in order to preserve the command of the troops in their own officers. Sir E. Hughes, who had returned to his station in spring, adhered to the same line of conduct he had hitherto adopted, and by declining an engagement with the French Admiral, chose rather to lower the character of the British navy, and to reject the laurels he might have easily won, than see any branch of them grace the brows of his rival. From the gloomy consequences of these jarring interests the settlement was fortunately relieved by a notification of preliminaries of peace having been signed between

* Hyder Ali, a few days before his death is said to have sent for his two principal Dewans, and dictated to them the following letter to be delivered to Tippoo Saheb. "I marched out of my country to attack and drive the English out of their possessions in the Carnatic, in which attempt I have expended a great treasure. I invited the French, but since their arrival have never received any assistance from them; however, should I recover, I think I should be able to finish what I have begun. I have raised myself to the Nabobship of Seringapatam, established a great name, and conquered many countries. I therefore desire you will not bring disgrace on my name. You will make peace with the English, and return with your army to Seringapatam, and establish yourself in the government. I think there is no reliance to be put upon any assistance from the French; but should their ships arrive in a month or forty-five days, you may join them. Put weigh all matters well: do nothing rashly, and consider whether or not you can effect my plans. When you make peace, give large bribes to the English officers, and procure the fort and district of Poodicotah, belonging to the Trichenopoly country, and the hill and district of Halipady belonging to the Vellore country. You must have it stipulated in the treaty with the English, that they are to grant you assistance whenever you require it. You will also take possession of the forts of Mahee, and deliver them over to the French."

France and England; and Tippoo Saheb found it his interest, after some delay and hesitation, to acquiesce in the proposals made to him, by commissioners from the English government, in consequence of which, on the 11th of March 1783, a treaty was signed by which a mutual restoration of places and prisoners was agreed on, conformably to the treaty of peace concluded in Europe.

The restoration of peace did not lessen the difficulties Lord Macartney had to encounter, it merely varied them. It was well known that the main object in his appointment to the government of Madras was the correction of abuses, and the extirpating of corruption. This it may be supposed created him many enemies among whom one of the most powerful and inveterate, was the celebrated Mr. Hastings, then governor-general of Bengal. The first attempt made to injure him, was by endeavouring to give up to the nabob of Arcot the assignment by which he had made over the revenues of the Carnatic to the company. To effect this every obstacle was raised to render it unproductive, and to vilify his conduct; but he was determined to persevere. His rigid adherence to covenants, and his positive refusal of all presents since his arrival in India, were so new as to render his motives at first inexplicable. At one time such conduct was imputed to his ignorance of the mode of governing the black population in India; at another it was suggested that his avarice required something more than what had yet been offered. Under this idea the usual present to a new governor of a lac of pagodas was augmented to two, with an apology from the nabob of having offered to a peer the present usually made to a commoner.—His refusal was viewed with the utmost astonishment. Soon after his arrival, another lure was thrown out. According to a custom common among the native powers who are said to be under the company's protection, every governor, admiral or commander in chief who happens to wear the insignia of any order of distinction or merit, is almost certain of being presented with a diamond star; he is given to understand that a plain silver badge in India would be considered derogatory to his rank and station, and that he must therefore be allowed to present him with one more becoming his dignity. It is said to be "only a little *betel* among friends;" but to use his own expression, "it was a kind of *betel* he was determined neither to chew nor swallow."

When these means failed, they changed their system, and the nabob's ministers had recourse to the writing of letters, filled with misrepresentation and falsehood, to the government of Bengal. And, on finding this also ineffectual, they addressed a letter to the king of England, filled with a high-wrought description of the oppressions and cruelties exercised over the Carnatic, by the governor of Madras. This was accompanied by several others addressed to the Ministers and court of Directors, all unsupported by proof and destitute of foundation; but well calculated to mislead and inflame the unwary reader. To ensure success, the message to England was backed by a new complaint to the Bengal government. The latter part of the plan succeeded so far that the memorial, together with several other papers tending to criminate Lord Macartney, was transmitted to England, without any intimation of such proceeding to the party accused, and orders also given for the resignation of the assignment to the nabob. This order, however, was disregarded: the revenues still continued to be paid in the same manner in which they had so essentially contributed to the preservation of the Carnatic. This species of petty persecution ceased, however, by the sudden removal of Mr. Hastings, which gave time to his present rival to make his arrangements in quiet for the future welfare of the settlement. He had proceeded but a short way in his plans of improvement, when an order arrived from England to restore the assignment, and to substitute Mr. Holland as governor of Madras. The former of these proceedings was deemed expedient to give the nabob a proof of the honour and generosity of the British nation; the latter had been expected and desired. As he did not

wish to be a voluntary spectator of the resignation of that document, the attainment of which he looked on as an object of such importance, he determined not to wait for the arrival of his successor, but to return to England. He went by the way of Bengal, hoping to impress on the minds of the Company's servants there, the necessity of preventing the execution of this measure, or at least of delaying it till further instructions could be transmitted. For this purpose after having laid before the presidency a statement of his emoluments and expenses, by which it appeared that the whole amount of his revenue during his residence at Madras amounted but to £32,000, he arrived at Calcutta. He did not however succeed in the main object of his journey. The prejudices formed against him continued to operate, and were rather aggravated by his appointment to the government of Bengal, which was received by him while there. This, however, he declined, both from ill health and a wish to impress in a personal conference with the ministry, the true state of Indian affairs.

One of the difficulties he had to contend against was the dissention between the civil and military departments in the government, together with the jealousies arising between the king's troops and those in the company's service. The extremities to which the king's officers wished to proceed, may be judged of by the following circumstance. On the trial of Sir John Burgoyne, whom Lord Macartney had been reluctantly obliged to put under arrest, it appeared that at a meeting of the king's general officers, the day after General Stewart's arrest, a proposition was made by one of them to remove Lord Macartney from his government, and appoint another in his place, and to seize General Lang, the new commander in chief. The proposition was however rejected by Sir J. Burgoyne, whose prudence probably suggested to him the absurdity of such an attempt against one who had proved himself to be so well prepared against outrage or insult.

In the beginning of the year 1806, Lord Macartney returned to London, where he had an interview with the ministers, the result of which was his declining the appointment that had been offered to him when at Bengal, unless on conditions which were thought inadmissible, and the subsequent appointment of the earl of Cornwallis. During this recess from public affairs, in which he appears a solitary instance of an officer under the crown returning from India, where his conduct had met with the decided approbation of the king's ministers, without having received any mark of the royal bounty. This season of retirement he spent in improving his paternal property at Lissanoure, where it is probable he would have passed the evening of his days, had not another public duty called him again into action. This was the celebrated embassy to China, undertaken with the view of removing the disabilities under which the British merchants laboured in that country, and drawing closer the commercial relations between the two kingdoms. The history of that expedition is too well known to be dwelt on here. Though it is generally considered as having failed, yet some favourable changes have resulted from it. The British character became better known and more respected in China. Many petty impositions and inconveniences were removed, and the merchant was permitted to make his complaints in the first instance to the viceroy. It increased the demand for British cloth. It afforded means of acquiring a competent knowledge of the language, by which a direct communication is opened to the Chinese government, without being dependent on the missionaries, who often proved incorrect and false interpreters; the navigation of the Yellow Sea also became better known.

It was Lord Macartney's intention to have proceeded to Japan on his return, but in consequence of war breaking out between France and England, he thought it more adviseable to employ the ships which carried him in convoying the Chinese trade to England. To this country he returned in the end of the year 1794, and on landing found that in his absence he had been elevated to the dignity of an Irish earl, by the title of Earl of Macartney, in the county of Antrim.

The year following he was chosen

to undertake a secret mission to Italy, which he conducted to the satisfaction of the ministers. On his return he was created a British peer under the title of lord Macartney of Packhurst in Surrey. While he was absent in Italy he was also appointed governor of the Cape of Good Hope, which had surrendered to the English in September 1795. His administration here was marked by the same system of public economy, the same steady perseverance, and the same disinterestedness which had marked his character in every former situation. While he remained there he was beloved, and regretted on his departure. The only unpleasant circumstance which occurred was a mutiny in the squadron stationed there. At first it was appeased, but on the arrival of some other vessels it broke out again in a more formidable shape. As there appeared no prospect of its yielding to gentle means, lord Macartney determined to bring it at once to an issue. For this purpose, he repaired with his aid-de-camps to the battery, ordered the guns to be loaded, and the shot to be heated in the ovens, and taking out his watch he dispatched a message to the mutineers, that if they did not make an unconditional submission in half an hour, and hoist the royal standard in token of obedience, he would blow them out of the water. The threat had its effect, and order was immediately restored.

This was his last public employment. After his return in 1799, he spent the remainder of his life in retirement. The last six years of his life were much embittered by violent and reiterated attacks of the gout: but in the intervals he seemed to enjoy with great relish the society of his friends. His house was the resort of every distinguished character; persons of all parties courted his society and conversation. In 1805 his constitution visibly declined, he entirely lost his appetite and rejected all kind of food. In this state, the unfortunate turn of affairs on the Continent, and the death of Mr. Pitt, threw a considerable damp on his spirits.—Yet still hopes were entertained by the physicians; and three days before his death he was able to read the whole of the budget brought forward by the new chancellor of the exchequer, whom he pronounced to be a promising young man. On the evening of the 31st of March 1806, while reclining his head on his hand, as if dropping into a slumber, he sunk into the arms of death, without a sigh or struggle. His remains were deposited in the church-yard of Chiswick according to his own desire, near a residence he had a few years before purchased for the joint lives of himself and lady Macartney, and in the improvement of which he took great pleasure.

USEFUL INVENTIONS.

COAL-GAS LIGHT.

Description of an Apparatus for producing Inflammable Gas from Pit Coal; constructed by Mr. S. Clegg, Steam Engine Manufacturer, Manchester.

Trans. Soc. Arts, vol. 26.

THE Apparatus which Mr. Clegg has described in his communication to the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, &c. is designed for producing gas to light manufactories on a large scale.

The cast iron retort, or vessel in which the coals are put to produce the gas, is of a cylindrical form, and is inclosed horizontally in a brick fireplace, with one end opening outwards, in a similar manner to the iron ovens in common use; a semi-cylinder of cast iron is placed beneath it, to preserve it from being injured by the intensity of the fire, and to make the heat more equable; the grate for the fire extends inwards about one-third of the length of the retort, and the flame, after circulating over it, passes upwards through a flue above the front part of the retort: it is supposed that the cast iron shield placed beneath the retort, joins the brick-work at each side,

though this circumstance is not stated in the description, because this would be necessary to make the flame pass on round the further end of the retort: the mouth of the retort is closed by a lid ground to fit it air tight, which is fastened by a screw in the centre (but what this screw turns in, to draw the lid close, is not mentioned). Near the retort, a well or pit is sunk, and filled with water, for the gass-holder, or vessel for equalizing the delivery of the gass to move in; this gass-holder is made of wrought iron plates, and is counterpoised by two weights, acting by chains, passing over pullies fixed in a frame at a due height above; it is of a cylindrical shape, and has two frames of iron, formed like coach-wheels, placed at its extremities, to strengthen it. A vessel of cast iron is placed at the bottom of the well, into which the gas passes by a pipe that proceeds from the upper part of the retort, and in it deposits the tar oil, &c. which occasionally are pumped up from it by a pipe that rises above the well; from this vessel the gas rises upwards by a straight pipe, into an inverted vessel, closed at top, but open below, most part of which is below the surface of the water, where it is pierced with numerous small holes, through which the gas presses outwards, through the water, and rises up into the gas-holder: this inverted vessel is about eighteen inches diameter, and two feet long, in a large apparatus; it causes the gas to be washed in the most effectual manner, and prevents all danger of the water being drawn into the condenser, on cooling the retort, as might happen if the gas pipe terminated in the water. The gas at the lower part of the gas-holder not being so pure as that at the top, it is made to pass from the top alone by a vertical pipe in the centre, which rises and falls with the gas-holder, and reaches from the upper part to the water, and passes over a fixed pipe, rising from a second vessel at the bottom of the well (represented in the plate, but not mentioned in the description) from whence another pipe ascends close by the side of the well, to convey the gas to the lamps, where it is burnt. The gas enters the moveable pipe through small holes near its top, and is from thence conveyed through the other pipes last described. The seams of the gas-holder are luted to make them air-tight, and the whole is well painted, inside and out; it is sunk to a level nearly with the top of the well, before the retort is heated, but when the gas comes over on applying the fire, it gradually rises, and moves higher or lower, according as the gas is produced more or less abundantly.

The lamps in which the gas is burned, are formed in the same manner as Argand's lamps; the gas passes into the space between their inner and outer tubes, by a pipe at one side; a flat ring closes the upper part of each, which is perforated with a number of small holes, through which the gas rises to the flame, surrounded by a glas funnel; a small stopper, like a button, is placed so on the top of a vertical wire within the glass, that it may be brought nearer or farther from the aperture of the internal tube by which the air passes, and regulate the velocity and direction of its current; for which purpose the wire slides upwards through two cross bars placed across the inner tube. This little addition is found to assist the combustion very much, and increase the light.

The dimensions of the apparatus are not mentioned in the description, but assuming the length of the inverted vessel as a standard, which is the only part whose capacity is noted in any case, the proportions of the different parts, as taken from the plate, will be thus: the gas holder six feet in diameter, and 6½ feet high; the retort about five feet long, and 1½ in diameter; the first condenser two feet in diameter; the second immersed vessel 1½ in diameter; and the inverted vessel, or gas-washer, two feet long, and about one foot broad: the pullies over which the chains work, which raise the gas-holder, 1½ feet in diameter, the well 7 feet deep, the flue of the chimney 9 inches across, and the space between the retort and the brick-work 6 inches, except over the fire-place, which is 18 inches long, and 10 deep.

Remarks on this Apparatus, extracted from the Athenæum.

Mr. Clegg's communication has the

merit of being the first complete description of an apparatus of English construction, for producing coal gas, which has yet been made public, from which one might be made, without leaving the formation of any part to conjecture; with the exception of the mode in which the screw is to be applied for fastening the lid of the retort.

The gas-holder alone, in this apparatus, seems objectionable, in being made needlessly strong, as is stated to be formed of *wrought iron* plates, and is besides strengthened by two very powerful iron frames inside, when it is not liable to any great pressure internally or externally, or to any friction, which would require all this strength. For a common apparatus, on a small scale, a cask would probably do very well for this part, as the water with which it would be always in contact would keep it staunch.

An Account of the Method of Cultivating the American Cranberry, by the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks.

Trans. Hist. Soc. p. 2.

The American Cranberry, Vaccinium Monocarpium, has succeeded remarkably well at Spring-grove, under the management of Sir Joseph Banks.

It is cultivated on an artificial island in a basin, and on the banks of a pond at Spring-grove, which are supplied by a spring that rises in a small grove on the grounds, from which the place probably derives its name: to this constant supply of fresh water, though it is but small, the great luxuriancy with which water-plants of all kinds suitable to the climate succeed in the pond, is to be in a great degree attributed.

In the middle of the basin a small island has been formed, by supporting a box of oak upon posts driven into the bottom; this box is 22 feet in diameter, and 13 inches deep; the bottom lies 5 inches under the surface of the water, and is bored through with many holes; on this a layer of stones and rubbish was first placed, and upon that a covering of bog earth from Hounslow Heath, which together are at the bottom 5 inches under the surface of the water, and 7 inches above it at the top; in this bed of black mould a variety of curious bog plants were placed about seven years ago, which flourished in an unusual degree; among them was the Vaccinium, which flowered and ripened its fruit the first year. In the Autumn of the second year it again produced a plentiful crop, and soon after began to send out runners somewhat resembling those of a strawberry, but longer, and rather less inclined to take root while young; they did, however take root in the winter, and threw out upright branches, ten inches or a foot long, on which the flowers and fruit were chiefly placed; the produce was this year gathered, and found to be flavoured berries, very superior to those imported, which have in general been gathered unripe, and have become vapid and almost tasteless, by long soaking in the water in which they are packed for carriage. It was now determined to give up the whole of the island to the cranberry, which in a few years entirely covered it by its runners, without any fresh plants being added; and this bed, with the addition of some hanging boxes, receding from the center to the sides, produced, in 1806, twenty-three bottles of very fine cranberries.

In 1805, a bed was made on the side of the pond, 20 feet long, and 5½ feet wide, by a few stakes driven into the bottom, parallel to the sides, and lined with old boards; the bottom of this was filled with stones and rubbish, and on these a bed of black mould was laid, extending 3 inches above, and 7 inches beneath the usual surface of the water; this was planted with cranberry plants from a hot-bed, where many of them rooted, and throve most vigorously. In the Autumn of 1807, this bed produced a crop, which, added to that of the island, afforded five dozen bottles of cranberries, besides a small basket for present use.

The total contents of the two cranberry beds is 326 square feet; the quantity of land employed for raising strawberries at Spring Grove is, after deducting the divisions between the beds, 5045 feet; the beds necessary to give a sufficient supply of cranberries for Sir Joseph's family, did not therefore occupy quite an eighth of the space allotted to the strawberries.

DETACHED ANECDOTES.

THE HONEST CABINET-MAKER

Of Bolton le-Moors, in Lancashire, compared with certain characters of higher ranks. At a public dinner lately in Liverpool, in honour of Colonel Wardle, a gentleman in the course of his speech related the following anecdote.

IN my juvenile days I had the felicity to spend two years and a half, at Bolton le-Moors, which you well know is a kind of Lancashire Athens—a seat of the polite and liberal arts. Among other elegant amusements to which the inhabitants of that town were addicted, it was customary on a certain day in the year, to play a grand match of foot-ball in the main street: one half the town playing against the other, to the great emolument of the glazier and the surgeon; but to the extreme annoyance of the orderly part of the community. Some years ago the latter determined to put down this nuisance, and for this purpose procured the attendance of magistrates, who swore in a large *possè* of special constables. Among these executors of justice was an honest cabinet-maker, who was himself very fond of the prohibited game, and whose shop I well remember to have made a brilliant appearance in the market place. On the customary day the foot-ball players assembled, and the magistrates mustered their array of constables—when lo! my friend the cabinet-maker was missing, and on sending to his house the magistrates were informed that he had left town early in the morning. When the affray was over, he made his appearance, and on being reproached for his pusillanimity in deserting his post, he said, "I promise you I am no coward; but the truth is, I could not in shame come and knock men down with a truncheon for doing what I did myself but the very last year." Now, gentlemen, on so grave and important a subject, I will not hazard an opinion; and I shall leave it for you to consider whether any compunctions of a similar kind may have prevented the truncheon from descending upon the head of the accused.

HAIR POWDER.

This unaccountable decoration to the head was first introduced by certain ballad-singers at the fair of St. Germaine, in the beginning of the eighteenth century; they imagined that by its unnatural and grotesque appearance, it would add to the extravagance of their freaks and the wildness of their fun.

HANGING CHOICE.

In an interview with Joseph II. Emperor of Germany, Mr. Howard, the *real* philanthropist, described with considerable energy the comfortless and unwholesome state of the Austrian and Hungarian dungeons, and the little attention paid to the prisoners. His Imperial Majesty was somewhat hurt at Howard's strictures, as he had taken great pains to amend his penal code, and reduce it to a form which he considered as much less sanguinary than that of England. "I do not use them worse," said he, "than you do in England, where you hang them up by dozens at a time."—"Your remark may be true," replied the other, "but permit me to assure your Majesty, that I had rather be *hanged* in England than *live* in your German prison." "In truth," said the Emperor, when his guest had retired, "this little Englishman is no flatterer."

PUNNING EPITAPH.

The following Epitaph was composed by Lord Chancellor King, on an old domestic carpenter.

Posts oft he made, yet ne'er a *place* could get,
And lived by *railing*, though he was no wit;
Old saws he had, although no antiquarian,
And *stiles* corrected, yet was no grammarian.

EXTRAORDINARY MEMORY.

Antonio Magliabechi, a native of Florence, was the son of indigent parents, but by indefatigable industry and extraordinary powers of memory raised himself to a respectable rank in

life. Of the latter quality the following anecdote may serve as a proof. When young he was employed as errand-boy in a bookseller's shop: his master speaking of him one day, said that there was not a book in his shop which he had not read, and the contents of which he would not be able to repeat word for word. Such an assertion was naturally much doubted, and, in order to ascertain its truth, a neighbouring gentleman lent him a manuscript which was to be printed immediately; after perusal, it was returned to the author, who, in a few days called upon Magliabechi, and told him a melancholy story of having lost the paper he had lately lent him. "Dont be uneasy," replied he, "call upon me to-morrow morning, and perhaps we shall be able to recover the lost sheep." He immediately retired to his chamber, and the next day produced an accurate copy of what he had read, without missing a single word, or even varying the method of spelling.

BON MOT.

A writer of no great celebrity, who published his works in 6 vols. 8vo. called one part of them, "Letters to Posterity." On reading the title of this part a wit among his acquaintance said to him, "I fear, my friend, your letters will never reach the person to whom they are addressed,

ADVANCED STATE OF THE ARTS IN ASIA.

At the time that our ancestors were so deficient in mechanical skill, that Alfred was obliged to make use of candles to measure the time, the Persians imported into Europe a machine, which contained the first rudiments of a striking clock. It was brought as a present to Charlemagne, from Abdallah king of Persia, by two monks of Jerusalem, in the year 800. It is thus described by Eginhart who was an eye-witness of what he relates, and was also a skilful architect and well versed in the sciences. "Among other presents was an horologe of brass, wonderfully constructed by some mechanical artifice, which during the course of twelve hours served as a time-piece, having twelve little brazen balls, which at the close of each hour dropped down on a sort of bells underneath, and sounded the end of the hour. There were also twelve figures of horsemen, who, when the twelve hours were completed, issued out at twelve windows, which till then stood open, and returning again shut the windows after them. He adds, that there were many other curiosities in this instrument, which would be too tedious to recount.

IMPERIAL ETIQUETTE.

In the year 1683 John Sobieski, king of Poland, with an inferior force defeated an army of 200,000 Turks, near Vienna. After the battle, being to be presented to the Emperor Leopold I. this prince called a council to deliberate on the manner in which an elected king should be received by an emperor. "In your arms," said the Duke of Lorrain, with an honest warmth, "he has preserved Europe, and saved the Empire from destruction." This advice was not approved of. After a long consultation, Leopold ordered his chancellor to tell the king of Poland that it was not consistent with the dignity of an Emperor of Germany to offer him his hand when they met. His behaviour during the interview was conformable with this notice. He appeared in a loose undress, and during the whole time spoke of nothing but the vast benefits he and his ancestors had conferred on the Polish nation. Sobieski answered with dignity mixed with ironical coolness, "I am glad that the Poles have been able to render you a trifling service in return." With these words, and a slight bow, he left the unfeeling Emperor.

CHARGE TO A JURY.

The following is a specimen of the manner in which Jeffreys of infamous memory was accustomed to speak in his judicial capacity: it is taken from a speech delivered by him in the city of Bristol—"I have brought a brush in my pocket to rub off your dirt; I tell you, I have brought a stout besom, with which I will sweep every man's door, within and without; for in good truth, you want rubbing; the dirt of your ditch is in your nostrils. Where am I? In Bristol, a city in which it seems you claim the privilege of hanging, drawing and quartering; a privilege which you ought to enjoy at least once a

month; I have a calendar of your city in my hands, and hope to hang one half of you at least.

HOW TO PREVENT REVOLUTION.

The following instance will serve to show that though Louis XV. of France had many failings, he did not permit private feeling to interfere with public duty. A prince of the blood having disgraced himself by robbery and murder in the streets of Paris, was taken into custody, tried and found guilty, but through respect to his rank, a deputation from the parliament waited on the king, to inform him that they would not pronounce sentence, until the royal will had been declared. "And why not gentlemen," said the king. The president replied, "the unhappy prince has your Majesty's blood circulating in his veins." "*It is become putrid, and must be let out*," was the king's answer. Another of the deputies still venturing to express a wish that the offender might be pardoned, the royal judge put an end to any further application by pronouncing the following words in an elevated voice. "Return without delay, and pronounce your decree; for, by my hopes of eternal salvation, and by the sacred trust I hold from Almighty God, *he should die if he were my only son.*" The murderer was executed on a scaffold in the court of the Chatelet, in the early part of the 18th century.

THE ANSWER SUITED TO THE QUESTION.

A man went to a Derveish, and proposed three questions; first, "why do they say that God is omnipotent? I do not see him in any place: show me where he is." Second, "Why is man punished for crimes, since whatever he does proceeds from God? Man has no free will; for he cannot do any thing contrary to the will of God; and if he had power, he would do every thing for his own good." Third, "How can God punish Satan with hell-fire since he is formed of that element? and what impression can fire make on itself?" The Derveish took up a large clod of earth, and struck him on the head with it. The man went to the Cazy, and said, "I proposed three questions to a certain Derveish, who flung such a clod at me, as has made my head ache." The Cazy having sent for the Derveish, asked, "why did you strike this man with a clod, instead of answering his questions? The Derveish replied: "The clod of earth was an answer to his speech. He says, he has a pain in his head; let him show it, and I will make God visible to him. Why also does he exhibit a complaint to you against me? Whatever I did was the act of God: I did not strike him without the will of God. What power do I possess. Moreover as he is compounded of earth, how can he suffer pain from that element?" The man was confounded, and the Cazy highly pleased with the Derveish's answer.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

ANALYSIS OF 1808 AND 1809.

Continued from No. VI.

Omne tulit punctum qui miscuit utile dulc.

SAGE Typographic Sirs, again I greet ye,
After so long a lapse, right glad to meet ye.
Pray how are all my sable * friends, your imps?
I will (I assure you) give me mighty pleasure
To find them safe at home, and free from seizure
By Sir *Vicary's* vengeful—*legal crimps*.

Will they, with new-strung lyre resume the song?
And (quaintly singing as they go along,
"SPANIA ecce iterum"—"*tibi desinet cantus*")
'Tell us of all the advances and retreats,
Pretended conquests, and *confirm'd* defeats,
Publish'd by *Generals—Monks*—and *Central Juntas*?

Will they most conscientiously compare
The monstrous lies of *Master Hookham Frere*,
And tell us how in shape and form they chime
With facts, as brought to light by *Master Time*?
But at their *napper's* risque let them—not tell
How MOORE, to *knavish clerks* a victim fell.

Will they be able *now* to reconcile
A difference so great as this, that while
A British Army high in courage—high
In martial ardour aided them—then why
Did not that patriotic ardour show
'That wond'rous valour 'gainst the common foe

* See Magazine for January, 1809, page 38.

Which now appears in ev'ry new report
Of every ship from every Spanish port?

"Lord, Sir! tis plain as light"—your imps will say,
When Britons fought,—the Spaniards ran away;
And if the truth was known, so do they still.
But * * * * * no truth will tell.

Infants of Koster, can you now declare
The likely issue of this Spanish war?
"The issue of this war"—the elfs will say—
"We are not prophets, sir—mere sylphs—mere slaves,
Performing always what our *interest* craves,
And as seems meet—we either fight or pray;
But on this axiom all our skill we cast—
Still judge of future events by the past."

Well now, of *Sweden* will you deign to speak?
Or take of its mad king a solemn view,
One hundred thousand pounds a month at stake,
And where's the good that's likely to ensue?
Shade of *Adolphus*—*Vasa*'s shade appear,
On your distracted country cast one look,
Oh may your voice and counsel still be near
The hope of *Sweden*, *Sudermania's Duke.*
And, maugre foreign gold—let warfare cease.
Say to each maddening faction—peace—peace—peace!

Now I might call you idle, dirty ve rmin,
Short-sighted thieves, and scant of all discerning,
Who broach'd not even once, a thing so plain
As *Nap*'s destruction—*Bonaparte*'s ruin,
His empire overturn'd by—his misdoing,
Vent'ring with Austria to make this campaign.

Your thieves again will say, "Lord, sir, in war
Every rapscallion passes us by far;
Ours is the art of harmony and peace.
Now, for the love of God, deal justly by us,
And with a civil question fairly try us,
Suppose the *orgies of Gloucester-place.*"

To them I thus reply, What signifies
The filthy jacobinic Cambrian lies,
Which did appear the Committee before,
'Twould make an honest, loyal Christian ****
To hear thus blazon'd forth *a Royal Duke*
As a co-partner with a common *****

By way of interlude, when things look bad,
And nought of consolation can be had;
When *Austrian bulletins* have run too long,
And coming near the dregs, taste sour and hard,
Give us to catch the eye and claim regard
Of *Catalani the accouchement!*

Now swell your lungs and make a noise,
And tell about St. Stephen's boys,
Or, rather tell about St. Stephen's hall,
And from the cases of your hidden store
Tip us a sample of historic lore,
Which will inform, and eke—astonish all.

Of William Rufus now most loudly sing,
That sober, self-will'd, chaste, domestic king,
When wishing to atone for some great crime
By him committed, built this solid fane
A few years after he began to reign,
In the year of—I cannot tell the time,
And stock'd it well with jolly monks and friars,
A noisy, prating, babbling pack of liars.

And in this chapel, as sage *Howell*† tells,
Were (plac'd by Rufus) three enormous bells,
Which only rung on coronation days,
Triumphs, and funerals, as the legend says:
But when they rung, so awful was the sound,
It sour'd the drink for many miles around.

Alas! long since these bells have ceas'd to toll,
But in their stead (have mercy on his soul)
A human bell—I think I hear it yet,
Within this chapel rung—its name was *Pitt*,
And so tremendous was its triple roar,
It rais'd the price of drink, as well as made it sour.

Stop, stop, in God's name, sure we have enough
Abont St. Stephen's chapel, and such stuff.
Now quit your cases, and skip into form;
Put on a look sedate, demure, and grave,
And having done so, may I humbly crave
That you will tell us something of Reform.

Reform, and gravity—sure, sir, you jest,
Whate'er is best administer'd is best;
Have you not read so, and will you not grant
That *Percival* deserves great praise, so far
As asking no new taxes for the war.
If this don't please you, tell us what you want.

And then that gentle stripling Castlereagh,
Will it not please you when you hear him say,
That, "'pon my honor, sir, I *did* intend
Against the constitution to offend.
Yet *consummation* not being in my power,
I'm innocent and pure as any flower."

Edentecullo, CALDERONE.
25th May, 1809.

(To be continued.)

† See Londinopolis, a book written by Howell.

SONNET TO THE RED-BREAST.

RED-BREAST, I love thy moralizing song,
Pour'd at my window on my waken'd ear,
When hoary winter leads his blasts along,
And leafy tenants fill the inverted year.

Methinks thus speaks thy vocal minstrelsy,
Swift fly the Halcyon months on rapid wing;
Mute all the harmonious songsters of the sky,
The friend of man, lo! I am left to sing!

Gay summer's glare ill suits thy state and mind,
Winter's grave livery virtue better loves,
The day is short, employ the early prime,
To mark the good the conscious mind approves.

So sweetly pass the golden hours along,
"To meditation due, and sacred song."

S.

ODE TO SPRING.

AT thy approach, O genial Spring,
The birds a parting requiem sing
To winter's gloomy reign,
Thou com'st arrayed in vernal green,
The graces and the loves are seen,
Attendant in thy train.

Thy soothing influence spreads around,
With chearful songs the woods resound,
Which echo through the grove;
The tuneful thrush with varying note,
The blackbird strains its little throat,
And sweetly sings his love.

Hark! 'tis the stock-dove's plaintive moan;
The cuckoo with unchanging tone,
The smiling season hail,
The sparrow chirrups through the brake,
And now we hear the constant creak
Of yonder busy rail.

The snow-drop from its grassy bed,
First-born of spring, uprears its head,
In vest of purest white,
The primrose next of sickly hue,
The violet's ethereal blue,
Attracts the wanderer's sight.

Thick scattered like a shower of hail,
The daisy variegates the vale,
O'er nature's carpet spread,
The daffodil of bolder size,
Does towering o'er the herbage rise,
And proudly rears its head.

The garden now with fragrance blows,
Though neither pink nor blushing rose,
To grace the scene appears,
The wall-flower sips the morning dew,
The auricula of various hue
A motley livery wears.

The attempt to paint each flower is vain,
Which spring has scattered o'er the plain,
And spread with liberal hand;
May heaven the year with plenty crown,
And on the wings of peace send down,
Protection to this land.

Thou god of seasons, thy controul
Pervades, invigorates the whole,
Thou dost thy blessings pour;
Thou sendest summer's vernal bloom,
Presidest o'er the wintry gloom
And autumn's yellow store. LYDIA.

THE FATHER TO HIS BABE.

WELCOME, welcome, beauteous babe!
O thrice welcome to my sight!
Pleas'd I greet thy opening eyes,
Like thy mother's, azure bright.

Lovely infant, angel mild,
Pledge of purest, fondest flame,
Little sweet! I'll honour thee,
With our worthy parent's name.

Cherub, Helen!—on that breast,
Glad I see thee soft recline,
O was mortal e'er so blest!
O! what happiness is mine!

ELIZABETH.

THE RISING SUN.

YOU view the rising sun,
Shedding round his glowing light;
Already has his course begun,
But soon! ah soon! 'twill sink in night.

Fair Aurora cheers the skies,
In her robe of saffron drest,
Each fleeting cloud before her flies,
Each warbling songster leaves its nest.

Sweetly they salute the morn,
While they carol on each spray;
The white buds blossom on the thorn,
And Griese* rolls silently away.

The violet does its sweets disclose,
The primrose blooms in modest shade;
Why withers now the lovely rose,
That late its painted bloom display'd?

So, short lived beauty, dost thou fly,
And leav'st each maiden to her fate,
Thy transient roses fade and die,
But steadier virtue keeps her seat,

FLORELLA.

* A small river in the county of Kildare.

SELECTED POETRY.

THE FOLLOWING ELEGANT POETICAL ARTICLE FROM THE PEN OF W. ROSCOE, HAS LATELY APPEARED IN THE ATHENÆUM: WE VENTURE TO GIVE IT AS A TREAT TO OUR READERS.

THE BUTTERFLY'S BIRTH-DAY.

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE "BUTTERFLY'S BALL."

THE shades of night were scarcely fled;
The air was mild, the winds were still;
And slow the slanting sun-beams spread,
O'er wood and lawn, o'er heath and hill.

From fleecy clouds of pearly hue
Had dropt a short but balmy shower,
That hung like gems of morning dew,
On every tree and every flower.

And from the blackbird's mellow throat,
Was poured so loud and long a swell,
As echoed with responsive note,
From mountain's side and shadowy dell.

When bursting forth to life and light,
The offspring of enraptured May,
The BUTTERFLY on pinions bright,
Launch'd in full splendor on the day,

Unconscious of a mother's care,
No infant wretchedness she knew;
But as she felt the vernal air,
At once to full perfection grew.

Her slender form, ethereal light,
Her velvet textured wings enfold,
With all the rainbow's colours bright,
And dropt with spots of burnish'd gold.

Trembling with joy awhile she stood,
And felt the sun's enlivening ray;
Drank from the skies the vital flood,
And wondered at her plumage gay.

And balanc'd oft her 'broidered wings,
Through fields of air prepared to sail,
Then on her vent'rous journey springs,
And floats along the rising gale.

Go, child of pleasure, range the fields,
Taste all the joys that spring can give,
Partake what bounteous summer yields,
And live whilst yet 'tis thine to live.

Go sip the rose's fragrant dew,
The lily's honied cup explore;
From flower to flower the search renew,
And rifle all the woodbine's store.

And let me trace thy vagrant flight,
Thy moments too of short repose,
And mark thee then with fresh delight,
Thy golden pinions ope and close.

But hark! whilst thus I musing stand,
Pours on the gale an airy note,
And breathing from a viewless band,
Soft silvery tones around me float!

They cease—but still a voice I hear,
A whisper'd voice of hope and joy,
"Thy hour of rest approaches near,
Prepare thee mortal!—thou must die!

"Yet start not—on thy closing eyes
Another day shall still unfold,
A sun of milder radiance rise,
A happier age of joys untold.

"Shall the poor worm that shocks thy sight,
The humblest form in nature's train,
Thus rise in new born lustre bright,
And yet the emblem teach in vain?

"Ah where were once her golden eyes,
Her glittering wings of purple pride?
Conceal'd beneath a rude disguise,
A shapeless mass to earth allied.

"Like thee the hapless reptile liv'd,
Like thee he toil'd, like thee he spun,
Like thine his closing hour arrived,
His labours ceas'd, his web was done.

"And shalt thou, number'd with the dead,
No happier state of being know?
And shall no future morrow shed,
On thee a beam of brighter glow?

"Is this the bound of power divine,
To animate an insect frame;
Or shall not he who moulded thine,
Wake at his will the vital flame?

"Go, mortal! in thy reptile state,
Enough to know to thee is given;
Go, and the joyful truth relate;
Frail child of earth, high heir of heaven!"

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Speech of Henry Brougham, esq. before the House of Commons, Friday, April 1, 1808, *in support of the Petitions from London, Liverpool and Manchester, against the Orders in Council. Taken in Shorthand by Mr. A. Frazer. London, printed by J. M'Creery, for J. Ridgway, Piccadilly,* 1808. *p. p.* 84.

Continued from p. 305, *No. IX.*

LET us see the effects which the British Orders produced, as well on the rates of insurance, as in cutting off the resources of the American trade with the continent of Europe, which flowed into Britain to pay for her manufactures: which mischief was effected by the act and deed of the Government at home, and not by the Berlin decree, or American embargo.

"*Now*, I may be allowed to allude on this branch of the case to the real and permanent variation that has at length taken place in the rate of insurance. It is *now* nothing extravagant, nor is it any misrepresentation, as it formerly was, to state that a great and steady rise has taken place in the premium. The witnesses, to whose evidence I formerly referred on this point, concur in stating, that a permanent rise has *now* taken place in the rate of insurance from this country to America, and back again, although not a considerable one: but that a great rise has taken place upon the insurance of neutral vessels bound from this country to the continent. Instead of doing it at six guineas, the premium now demanded is thirty-five guineas; and it appears from the evidence of Mr.

White (an insurance broker, largely concerned in trade to the Continent—a smuggling trade, of which his answers lead us to believe that this witness knows a good deal more than he is willing to tell you) that he goes upon the 'change offering upwards of 35*l.* per cent to insure American vessels to Amsterdam, but that it cannot be done; in short, that this trade is as good as finished. The British clause has shared the same fate. That clause which formerly used to be valued at two or three guineas, by which an American was accustomed to be insured against the effects of British capture, costs now more than ninety guineas; in short, no British clause can now be under-written. So different is an English naval decree from a French one in its execution and effects! It is only for the purpose of showing this wide difference that I mention the fact. The French decree has been foolishly and falsely said to have raised the rate of insurance from two to three guineas, while the English ones, it is evident, have actually raised it from two to ninety guineas; and it is well known that at that rate nothing can be done.—Although the trade to the continent continued to go on in spite of the enemy's decrees, yet it would appear that the English orders in council are not of so little avail; they have at once cut up by the roots, the whole commerce of the country; they will not permit American vessels to go direct to France, nor to other parts of the continent, for they have created a refusal to under-write the risque of such a voyage; and this proves that it is one and the same thing for us to issue and to enforce our edicts, against our own trade; which France cannot touch a ton of by all her decrees.

"Sir, I have shown that the trade between America and the continent, is quite as essential to this country, as it is to America, inasmuch as we must lose two thirds of our payments the moment it ceases. But I must now remark that it is impossible we should get even that third part of our payment which remains, if the orders in council and the measures arising out of them continue to be acted upon. Mr. Bell says that as long as those orders subsist he may ship goods to America to the amount of the direct payment which comes over in American produce, but that this produce will be deprived of nine-tenths of its value; and therefore instead of continuing to trade to the amount of even one third, we cannot trade to the amount of the thirtieth or the three hundredth part of what we formerly did; for, unless we chuse to be paid in tobacco, which will lose nearly all its value, or cotton which will lose its whole value, or any thing else of no earthly use or worth, we have no prospect of continuing, even to the sorry amount of one third part, our former trade to America. Therefore, sir, I say that in every point of view in which we can look at this new system of commercial regulation, we see but one effect, namely, that of ruining and cutting off, root and branch, the whole of our traffic with the United States of America, or in other words, I may say, the whole of our foreign trade.

"An attempt has been made to impute this stoppage of the trade with America, not to our orders in council, but to the American embargo and non-importation act; and now I entreat the attention of the house while I endeavour to show that there is no reason whatever for imputing this failure to the American embargo. The evidence of Mr. Martin was directed to this purpose. After having explained that the orders for the spring shipment were generally as good as finished before the middle of January each year, it is only necessary for me to state that the news of the embargo did not reach those parts of the country likely to be affected by it before the middle of January; so that the orders for the last spring shipments could never have been touched by it. Mr. Martin states that it was previous to the 26th of the month of January that all shipments ought to have been prepared, or orders given, and that the defalcation for the last shipment had entirely taken place before that date. That defalcation amounted nearly to the whole extent; and he leaves you

to draw the inference, that it could have been owing solely to the orders in council. This gentleman having visited the town of Birmingham since the orders in council had been issued, and having inquired how the shipments there had been affected by them, he found they were doing nothing and meant to do nothing in regard to spring shipments.

"The testimony of Mr. James Palmer informs you that instead of paying to his workmen 200*l.* per week, he was under the necessity of reducing it to 50*l.* from November, though he only learnt the news of the Embargo in January.—With this short statement of that part of the case, I leave it to you, sir, to answer the question whether it be possible to confound by reason or ingenuity, or even by assertion (which has been so much more lavishly used than any thing else on the other side) to confound the effects of the American measures and our own.

"It would appear, sir, that without any evidence at all, one simple consideration is enough to show in what manner the orders in council, crossing, as Mr. Bell aptly expressed it, the French decrees, must have ruined our commerce with foreign parts, not only interrupting our trade with America, but also cutting off that great contraband trade which used formerly to be carried on through the Americans, between us and our enemies—softening the hardships of war, and making them fall as lightly upon us as on the enemy—on us to whom trade is every thing, as on him who, having little or none of his own, was most deeply interested in surrendering his share, could he but hope thereby to take from us ours.

"This short and summary view of the measure, even without the aid of the statement so satisfactorily set forth in the evidence before you, will, I trust, prove sufficiently decisive to entitle me to leave this branch of the argument without one further comment, and to affirm that I have completely demonstrated a proposition, at first sight rather parodoxical, that England has, by her own measures, effectually, strictly, *vigorously*, countersigned the enemy's edict."

Our author next proceeds to point out that the orders in council actually produced the embargo.

"In the second examination of Mr. Glennie, he states, that it was a perfectly well known fact, upon the Exchange of London, amongst mercantile men, a few days before the issuing of the Orders, that some strong measures would be taken by the government of the country to that effect; that this was matter of general and confident expectation; and particularly on the Saturday before many persons did pretend to give the details, which afterwards appeared in the gazette. So perfectly was he convinced of it, from all he heard, that on the 22d. of October he wrote to several of his correspondents in America, that a strong measure was to be adopted by the government of this country, which in all probability would, in some degree, affect the trade between America, this Country, and the Continent. He further states that these orders, when they did come forth, appeared to be pretty much of the nature that was expected. He does not say they were accurately of the nature looked for; this he could not presume to say—for the petitioners themselves tell you that they do not yet fully understand them. They only know this, that as far as they possibly can judge of their effects they tend to ruin their trade. Neither they nor Mr. Glennie have as yet a precise and distinct knowledge of them, with all their various clashing enactments, and the multitude of alterations and retouches they have undergone. Therefore their anticipation of the measure itself could not be very distinct. It was however with safety pronounced by Mr. Glennie and other witnesses, to be much of the same nature with the measure as it eventually came out. Upon this subject, Mr. Mann concurs in corroborating what Mr. Glennie had stated; and mentions a set of cant phrases which were in people's mouths on the subject, disrespectful to the United States, and which I will not repeat. Mr. Mullett tells you that many mercantile men, within his own knowledge, regulated their transactions in their trade, by similar confident expectations

generally entertained a few weeks before the Orders came out, and communicated their feelings to him and to their correspondents according to those apprehensions."

"Now sir, if this news was so generally and so confidently circulated in this country, it is not surprising that it should have found its way across the Atlantic while the intercourse still subsisted with America. Accordingly it appears from the evidence of Mr. Martin, and Mr. Kinder, that it did so travel. Mr. Martin tells you, that on the 12th of November, he wrote a circular letter to his American correspondents, which letter was received on the 12th or 13th of December, but he believed the 12th; in this he stated, "it is strongly reported that it is the intention of our government to extend the system of blockade to France, and the respective States on the Continent under her influence, prohibiting from entrance into any of their ports, all vessels whatever, unless such as have last cleared from Great Britain and her dependencies." Mr. Martin has since received advice that one of the vessels by which the circular letter went, arrived on the 12th, or not later than the 13th of December. He tells you that the act of the embargo was issued on the 22d of December. Besides this, newspapers were produced and extracts read from them, particularly by Mr. Kinder, to show the various copies circulated in America of the paragraphs which appeared in this country, stating the confident expectation of those measures in England and describing pretty accurately what those measures were to be. One of these descriptions indeed is so accurate, that I believe there has not been, even to this hour, a much more correct general outline given to the public of the system in question, than this which thus appeared in a newspaper printed at New York, and dated the 15th of December.—Again, on the 14th of November, it appears that Mr. Munroe left this country, and he arrived at Philadelphia the 14th of December, on which day his secretary set out for Washington, and arrived there previous to the 17th. The New York paper to which I have alluded, stated that the "English government have not issued their proclamation declaring France and her dependencies in a state of siege, and prohibiting all intercourse with them, except directly from a British port, it not having received the signature of the king: a private letter from a Member of Parliament mentions that it would be published in the gazette of the 14th." In like manner a Philadelphia newspaper says, "a proclamation is, we understand, in readiness for his Majesty's signature, declaring France and all her vassal kingdoms in a state of siege, and prohibiting all intercourse with her or them; all entrance into her or their harbours, except such as had last cleared from a British port." This is an extract from a London newspaper, dated November 10 and Mr. Bell has also one of the 18th, from New York, purporting to be an extract from a Liverpool paper of the 13th of November. It states, "an Order of Council is in the gazette of Tuesday last, declaring the whole of the ports of France, Italy and Holland, and all under the influence of France, in a state of blockade, and which will be rigorously enforced. I have stated that Mr. Munroe's Secretary arrived at Washington on the 16th or 17th of December, and upon the 20th, a message comes from the President to the Houses of Congress upon the subject of this strange intelligence. They sit for many hours and deliberate with closed doors.—Upon the 22d of December, late at night, it was, and not till then, that the embargo upon American vessels was first issued as a legal measure.—Here then we see, sir, that the Orders in Council, or something very nearly resembling them (so near indeed that when we have got the Orders themselves, we have had nothing more illustrative given us as a sketch of the spirit of them) were accurately known by the President, and by the Congress of the United States of America, upon the 18th of December, being three days previous to the issuing of the embargo in the American ports. This is the plain matter of date and fact—If it be said

that this measure of embargo was adopted suddenly (a charge which I think cannot be attributed to it) I answer that if it was to be done at all, it behoved to be effected with vigour and promptitude, the very moment the government of that country perceived it was called for by the measures which we had adopted. As soon as this unexampled attack upon their navigation, and encroachment upon their privileges was known—nay, the instant that this unheard of aggression was suspected to be in our contemplation, the United States were obliged, not to resent it, indeed,—for it had not yet attacked them—but at least to provide against its certain effects, by some measure of precaution. Therefore, I say, let it not be argued that the suddenness of this precautionary measure—a measure in its very nature sudden and applicable to an unexpected and pressing emergency—affords any ground for believing that the Orders in Council were not the occasion of it."

We now come to the statement brought forward to demonstrate the capabilities of America becoming a manufacturing country, aided by British capital, necessarily detained in that country, for want of a mode of remittance, by sending produce to the British or European continental market. The present restrictions give a high premium in favour of American manufactures, and must, if the present system be persisted in afford to them most decisive support. We particularly recommend to our readers a close attention to the accounts of American resources here given. It may tend to remove many dangerous prejudices. The physical strength of America was formerly despised in these countries, and yet they triumphed by the establishment of their independence. A second act of the same tragedy or farce, appears to be now in rehearsal, and it depends in great measure on the wisdom or folly of British statesmen, how the present momentous crisis will terminate. Whether instructed by former errors, they will learn to relax in time, or by a pertinacious adherence to ill-concerted, and ill digested plans, finish the chapter of "All in the Wrong." We sincerely lament the unfriendly disposition, and the symptoms of hostility so frequently manifested both in conversation, and through the medium of the press, in these countries, towards the United States, and dread this issue will be productive of no good to our best interests.

"Let us look then to the consequences of this state of things. Your capital, to this amount of eight millions, must remain in the United States; but whether it is to remain there idle or not is another consideration. Will Congress, for the sake of giving encouragement to trade and manufactures, make some enactments in the nature of your orders in council? Will they, after the manner of those precious measures, prohibit manufactures, embargo their towns, and stop the internal commerce of the country, by warnings and visitings? Will they as you would, I verily believe, in their place, issue some twenty orders to lock up the capital, which I have stated England has made them a present of, and prevent its being employed until the intercourse with Europe is restored? No, no—they will not copy you so close—they will give their trade and manufactures every facility—they are rather better politicians than the wise framers of your decrees—they will foster this capital and make it conduce to truly beneficial ends, not by such orders in council as yours, but by measures really adapted to the encouragement of trade, aye, and let me tell you, sir, to the purpose of "retorting upon England the evils of her own injustice." For you will see this capital producing new branches of agriculture and of internal trade; new banking and other monied schemes; new manufactures, which have never before been thought of, for this plain and simple reason, because their capital was never adequate to the arduous task, and what little capital they had found other means of employment in purchasing the produce and manufactures of our country.

"The contrary of all this, however, is confidently expected by those great statesmen, who framed the orders in council. They pretend that our ma-

nufactures never can be supplanted; that they must be had by all nations; that happen what will they must find their way to a market. And truly I must say that this would be a comfortable doctrine if it were not already falsified by much experience: not only by the effects of commercial blunders in other countries, but by the operation of our own navigation act, a produce of wiser and better times; a measure well deserving the title of encourager of trade. The effect of this celebrated system upon the trade of Holland and other States, should admonish you, that it is possible for the staple industry of a country to be taken from it, and to be forced into other channels. The carrying trade of the world, the money traffic, in all its branches, insurance, banking, loans, stock, in short, every part of the large commerce which the Dutch had monopolized for ages, and with pretensions as superior to your's, as your present claims to a monopoly of manufacturing industry are above those of your neighbours; all this staple and exclusive commerce was, if not destroyed, at least shaken to pieces by an act of the really wise, and effectual promoters of English trade, who once sat in this house, and England became prematurely possessed of what Holland lost. The staple of Holland was thus suddenly forced into the channel of England, many years before the transference could have been effected in the natural course of things. Let us then learn from that encouragement which it is the just boast of our own navigation system to have given to our commerce, this lesson of experience, that it is not impossible to counteract nature and shift the seat of arts, by the force of political arrangements. I might prove this still further by the effects of another boasted part of your commercial policy, the wool laws.—I might illustrate it by referring to the whole histories of Spain, France, Italy, or to former periods of our own history. But, sir, not to go to other countries, upon the present occasion, it is sufficient for me to allude to the evidence which I have brought to your bar, bearing directly upon the case of America.

"The testimony of Mr. Kinder and Mr. Pollock will, I think, be esteemed decisive upon this point. It has always been supposed that when hands are cheap, and money plenty, commerce and trade will be encouraged, and not till then; but let it be remembered that America has been both increasing in hands with an unexampled rapidity, and accumulating money by the beneficial effects of a long interval of peace, which she has wisely and happily enjoyed. The public institutions, the manufactories, and the plans for the general encouragement to trade, have in that country been for years past visibly upon the increase. Their banks at present amount to 73; their insurance companies to 43; the interest of money has fallen from 12 or 20, to 6 and 7 per cent; capital is so heaped up, that it is common to meet thirty men possessed of £50,000, on one exchange. Four miles from any town, lands were two years ago sold at 500 dollars by the acre, a much higher price than is known in Middlesex itself. An emigration has been of late years perceived to take place from the Northern to the Western part of the country, where the land is cheaper. Nay, they have even a considerable number of manufactories already established, they have, upon some occasions, been able to export to other countries, and have so evidently begun their own market, that some of the witnesses at your bar, found themselves cut out of it by the competition of home-made goods. The result of the whole is, that we have given up a part of our capital for the purpose of enabling the Americans to establish trades and manufactures of their own, and that if we continue to force it into this employment, by our foolish measures, we shall soon find ourselves generally and permanently forestalled in the American market by their home-made goods.

"I am far from saying, sir, that these unquestionable facts ought to alarm this country, if measures be taken really capable of fostering our own trade, or at least leaving our industry to itself, and letting that of others alone, instead of those schemes, whose only tendency is to

upon all those points which I have feebly attempted to examine on the present occasion. It was put to him again and again.—"Do you think it possible that the Americans can enter into a non-importation act? Is it possible for them to change their habits altogether and at once, from political motives?"—The answers of that great man were equally consistent and decisive, and if the house will permit me I shall take the liberty of reading them, as they are in fact good evidence upon the question now before you, the whole being entered on your journals.—And I call upon you to hear them with the attention due, not merely to the authority of him who spoke them, but to a prophecy despised, and alas too fatally fulfilled. Therefore it is that I presume to repeat what was then told you, and to caution you against giving the cause of the petitioners now at your bar the same unhappy reception.

"One of the questions put to Dr. Franklin was this, "Is it the interest of the Americans to take those goods?" (meaning the produce and manufactures of this country.) He answered, "The goods they take from Britain are either necessaries, mere conveniences, or superfluities. The first, as cloth, &c. with a little industry, they can make at home; the second they can do without till they are able to provide them among themselves; and the last, which are much the greatest part, they will strike off immediately. They are mere articles of fashion purchased and consumed, because the fashion in a respected country, but will now be detested and rejected. The people have already struck off, by general agreement, the use of all goods fashionable in mournings, and many thousand pounds worth are sent back as unsaleable"—Again, "Is it their interest to make cloth at home?" "I think," said Dr. Franklin, "they may at present get it cheaper from Britain, I mean of the same fineness and neatness of workmanship, but when one considers other circumstances, the restraints on their trade, and the difficulties of making remittances, it is their interest to make every thing."—In another part Dr. Franklin was asked, "What are the body of the people in the colonies?" *A.* "They are farmers, husbandmen, or planters."—*Q.* "Would they suffer the produce of their land to rot?" *A.* "No: but they would not raise so much. They would manufacture more and plough less."—

"And so it is that *these petitioners* say the Americans will now do. They know that the Americans are chiefly occupied in pursuits of husbandry, because they are furnished by America with the produce which they manufacture for that country, for this country, and for all the world: they know that if you continue to stop the trade of the Americans with the Continent, and consequently with ourselves, so as to throw the produce back upon the hands of the growers, it will not rot any more than it would have done in Dr. Franklin's day; they tell you the Americans will keep their cotton if you prevent them from exporting it, and will work it up; they—these petitioners presume to repeat the language of that illustrious man, and tell you the Americans will manufacture more and plough less.—The concluding sentences of this memorable testimony are all that I shall now trouble the house with.

Q. "What used to be the pride of the Americans?"

A. "To indulge in the fashions and manufactures of Great Britain."

Q. "What is now their pride?"

A. "To wear their old clothes again till they can make new ones."

"Sir, it is the fate of men, that they are more prone to take lessons from their own experience than from precept, or even from the example of others, but I will venture to say that it is *the experience* of this country, to which I am now appealing—an experience too recent to be forgotten, too momentous—alas, that we should dare to neglect such lessons! This it is that has so powerfully backed the authority of the great name which I have quoted to you; and thus supported, I devoutly wish it may make you more cautious how you reject these petitioners than your predecessors were, within the same walls, when that gloomy prediction was first offered at your bar, and was by them, I tell you, despised because of its gloominess."

We conclude our extracts from this

stunt our commerce and make American manufactures emulate our own. I only prove that it is in vain to talk of this competition as a thing impossible.—I tell you that it is blind to say there is no such danger.—It is foolish to say that the poverty and cheap land of America will prevent all rivalship from growing up, do what we will to force it.—I tell you it is an idle security to suppose that our preference in the American market is of so steady a nature, and will be of such lasting duration, that no force or change of circumstances can wrest it from us. By the testimony of those who have visited that part of the world, and but yesterday seen the most interesting spectacle of a growing nation, that the eyes of man can behold, it appears that its manufactories are rising, and its capital accumulating. In addition to this it appears by the evidence now upon your table, that you have forced no less than eight millions of your capital into the same channel, in order, as it were, to secure—to perpetuate the rivalry of America, and while you exclude her from all intercourse with Europe, to render her more and more independent of yourselves. It is surely not unreasonable to suppose that under such circumstances she will turn the part of your capital which you have lent her, nay compelled her to keep in her hands, into channels which may subvert our traffic both with her and the rest of the world.

"Again, I beseech you, sir, to recollect that I do not say America will do all this naturally; if left to herself she may for years and years confine herself to agricultural pursuits; but I have shown you her capacities for other employments; I have proved that she is even on the brink of manufacturing in a good measure for herself; I say she will do so to any extent if you drive her to it; and I here again warn you how you rashly do that against your own commerce, which no power on earth but yours can ever effect.—Nor let any one think that the rivalship, which I am anticipating, would terminate with the emergency that gave rise to it. Even after that peace should be restored, which some persons fondly dream of as a possible event, it is in vain that you will look for the re-establishment of those peaceful and prosperous employments which former treaties have brought back to the country. The whole Continent may be subdued by the arms of your allies, and its commerce destroyed by your fleets; you may cease to have a rival in power, or in wealth from one extremity to the other of Europe.—After dictating a peace to the world, you will seek in vain for the restoration of the trade which your vigour shall have suspended; it is destroyed if it is suspended. You will find raised up by your jealousy and violence, a rival to your prosperity, on the other side of the Atlantic—a great nation, filled full of capital by your measures, and forced by them to be the first manufacturers in the world. You will then no doubt be immediately repaid those eight millions sterling which the Americans now owe you, for it is a common and a just remark, that successful traffic produces honest dealings. But what will be the consequence of having allowed that capital to accumulate, at compound interest, by its employment in such channels? Let us think of this, sir, and look to all these things when we are confiding in our own folly, and blindly hoping that in wilfully cutting ourselves out of every one line of industry, which has made us a rich and powerful nation, we shall still, God knows how, preserve our influence and wealth!

"Sir, it is not now for the first time that this topic has been broached in the House of Commons. The very same argument was once before put to you upon a memorable occasion. In the spot where I unworthily have now the honour to stand before you, there stood some forty years ago, one of the greatest men that this or any other country has ever produced. When the celebrated Dr. Franklin appeared in this place, by the desire of the house, during the discussions relating to the repeal of the stamp act, a variety of questions were put to him, touching the state of manufactures in the colonies of England. He was carefully asked his opinion

yoke of France.—This topic of consolation, sir, I have also tried with my clients. But I have been again met with their plaguy account books and dry details of profit and loss. They tell me bluntly enough, "All these fine fancies are nothing to us if they do not give us back our American market, which has by the grand measures of government been taken away. We ask back our traffic,—our buying and selling, our livelihood. We are plain men—merchants, manufacturers, and workmen—and we care not if one half of Europe never heard of the British Navy, nor knew there was such a thing as a ship—nay, nor knew there was such a country as England—provided that half were consuming our produce and wearing our manufactures. Let the British Navy and name be as unknown in the heart of Poland as it is in the desarts of Kamschatka—but, for pity's sake, give us back that trade, the sole means of our subsistence—the sole object of our desires—the only thing our literal imaginations ever dream about."

"Sir, I greatly fear, that dull as it may be, you must give these men some other answer to their complaints than the lively and elegant ones which I have been alluding to. I strongly suspect you must, in order to satisfy the people, make out some case for the new measures which shall be adapted to the grovelling capacities of the nine hundred and ninety-nine plain matter of fact men who inhabit the country, whatever flighty things you may hear from the thousandth wit.—For unhappily our customers on the continent have fallen under the dominion of a matter of fact man, who works with stubborn tools, and won't suffer his vassals to rebel for the sake of a point. *He* does not rule them by the love of sugar and coffee, and indeed cares little whether the interesting peasants ever see such things or no. *He* does not leave them to form ideas of a French soldier, by raising the prices of goods, "in places where a soldier was never seen."—He chains them with chains, and drives them on with bayonets—and sends half a million of strong men to execute his orders—and having done so, he troubles himself but little what his vassals say about colonial produce—or what orders you issue from your council, even if you should make them as intelligible as his own."

We trust that some of our readers will not be displeased with the length of these quotations. The subject is important, and we fear many treat it too lightly. As in similar cases, some may suppose that America is of no further importance, than to be made subservient to our selfish interests. The haughtiness and selfishness of Britain is a favourite theme on the continent of Europe, and turns the tide of popularity against us. Let us be wise in time. America may be conciliated, but cannot for any great length of time be bullied by us. In our humble capacities we wished to contribute our efforts to change the current of public opinion in favour of justice and sound policy. Popular feeling, properly directed and temperately urged, cannot fail to have some influence on the conduct of Government. In the beginning of the war with America, which ended in the independence of that country, the popular cry was in favour of coercion, and popular opinion differently directed, produced the peace of 1783. We have raised our voice against recurring again to coercive measures. Whether matters are already accommodated with America, or are in a train of being so speedily, it is difficult to ascertain; but even should a temporary accommodation take place, unless we cherish a spirit of peace towards them, no long time will elapse before mutual irritations may again arise. We trust, therefore, that our labour will not be lost, in thus having devoted so many of our pages to the attempt to promote a spirit of peace and reconciliation. K.

The Cottagers of Glenburnie, a Tale for the Farmer's Inglenook. By Elizabeth Hamilton, 8vo. 1 vol. p.p. 408. Edinburgh, Ballantyne & Co. 1808.

TO review a book which has already passed through three large editions with universal approbation, may appear superfluous, yet several reasons induce us to undertake the task. Though the book in question be written purposely for the improvement of the Scotch peasantry, yet in

interesting work by quoting the cogent reasoning and orcible ridicule adduced against the flowery oratory of our Secretary for Foreign Affairs, an oratory which he has since used in his diplomatic correspondence with the agents of the American government, which instead of convincing or conciliating, has tended only to irritate, and we fear, to widen the breach. The flippant style of a political Anti Jacobin Reviewer, is ill adapted to the grave and sober discussion between states, on great and momentous concerns.

"In answer to all our arguments, and in order to quiet the fears that are manifestly spreading over the country, we are told that the operation of the Orders in Council will put an end to the unnatural state of things which the enemy has established upon the Continent, and will force open the channels of trade now stopped up by him. If any thing in the possible consequences of these measures could give your petitioners a shadow of expectation that the ports of the Continent would be opened, and that the direct trade with it would again be established, most unquestionably, as they would have been the last to trouble you, had any such hopes remained to them, so they would even now leave your bar contented and cheerful, if you could, by any proof or argument, give a colour of truth to such pleasing prospects. But when they look to the history of the conquest of Europe, and to its present state, or view what is indeed, the same thing, the events of the French revolution, they can indulge in no such views.—After resisting so many violent shocks from without, and so many convulsions within—after passing through every sort of revolution—all the varieties of situation—uniform in nothing except the constant increase of calamity, public and domestic—after having suffered all this without attempting a complaint, or even breathing a murmur against the tyrant of the hour—when faction was raging in the West, and the enemy not always beaten in the East—after such scenes as these, and such incitements to rebellion utterly failed to create, during eighteen years of revolution, a whisper that could be heard from the people—I say, after all this, you desire us to expect that the scarcity of sugar, or a rise in the price of tobacco, or the difficulty of procuring cotton, should throw all France into a flame—bring out the seeds of lurking rebellion—draw forth the population of our enemies in array against their ruler—make them with one loud voice demand the revocation of the Berlin decree—and force the governor of France himself to sue for peace.—That such mighty things should arise from such little causes I am far from pronouncing to be impossible; but I lament that I have been quite unable to make my clients agree with me, or, by any such efforts, to comfort them under the ruin of their affairs, which they never cease proving to me by the dry details of their legers and day-books, as often as I unfold to them the pleasing views to which I have been alluding; nor indeed can I find any one to back me in urging such consolation to them.

"The petitioners have further been told by some persons of airy fancy and loud talk, that by this great act of self-denial, (a magnanimity considerably cheaper to those who preach it up, than to the poor petitioners who are desired to practice it) we shall assuredly make known in the most remote corners of the earth (even in places where the form of a ship has never yet been seen*) the power and the glories of the British Navy. It seems, that in proportion as sugars become higher in price, or as the people on the continent find their coffee becoming rougher, the gallant form of a vessel shall begin to dawn on their untutored minds. Growing by degrees more distinct, what ideas must it raise, as the sweets vanish! When at last the coffee too disappears, and the peasant wholly changes his breakfast of foreign luxuries into one of milk or wine, then indeed will he descry our whole fleets and navies, and tremble at the name of England—and thus shall the enslaved people of the continent speedily revolt against the

* This is supposed to allude to the eloquent speech of Mr. Secretary Canning, in which he recommended the orders in council as a great and promising experiment; and predicted that this curious effect would result from them.

many points it will be found applicable to ourselves, and if it be again brought forward before the public eye for this purpose, and held up in this particular point of view, as a means of introducing a system of domestic economy among the lower classes in this country, the investigation of its merits, though but a repetition of the praises it has already so deservedly obtained, will not be without its use. It may be said that the manners of the peasantry here, bear no comparison with the high drawn picture now before us; and indeed, were a stranger whose mind had been prepossessed with stories of Irish filth and Irish lazyness to travel into this country, for the purpose of verifying the truth of the character, if he were fortunate enough to enter the country at this extremity, sail up Carrickfergus bay, land in Belfast, and pursue the usual route of travellers through Lisburn, he would at once decide that the nation had been foully misrepresented, and wonder at the strange prejudice of foreigners, and the still stranger perversity of so many writers of this country who had dwelt on the unpleasing theme. But on proceeding further, it must be confessed that he would find too much reason to retract his over hasty opinion, he would see in many instances that the scenes of Glenburnie were but too faithfully represented in many parts of this kingdom. Let us not be accused of want of patriotism in making such an avowal. To see our own faults, and to endeavour to amend them, is real patriotism. Improvement is a nation's blessing; a blessing which can never be duly appreciated until we are conscious of our own wants. And for this reason the writer appears to me much more deserving of his country's thanks, who with the candour and courage of a true friend, points out its defects in hopes of applying a remedy, than he who by fanciful high drawn pictures, flatters it into a false sentiment of ideal superiority; or by incorrect representations of its ancient state, leads us to sigh after a return of those days of splendour, and to prefer a relapse into former barbarism to an exertion at increased improvement. This leads us to confess that another reason for undertaking the present review was that after having expressed ourselves with such severe though necessary reprehension on a writer of our own country, we are glad to seize an excuse for holding up another countrywoman in the light she deserves as one who has really raised the character of her country by her writings. Thus showing that though we "blame when we must," we "approve whene'er we can." In our reviewing department we have been accused of severity and injustice; of the former we have only to regret that so many occasions have been given us for exercising that unlovely duty; of the latter, we refer our papers to the candid and unprejudiced, confident that they will be found conformable with the principle on which the review has been commenced, and on which we are determined to proceed, to give merit its due, and place it in the most favourable light, but when ignorance or folly begins to babble, boldly to employ the scourge, and lash it into sense or silence.

This novel, if it should be classed in a species of writings which it resembles only in being founded on fiction, exhibits the simple story of a virtuous woman, who, profiting by the benefits of a religious education, has risen from the lowest rank of society to a situation of independence and comparative affluence, and endeavours to make the best and most acceptable return to the being from whom she received these blessings, by making herself as useful to her fellow-creatures as her means will admit. She is represented as retiring to spend the evening of her life in a retired village in Scotland, not in indolence or self-occupation, but in the active exertions of her abilities in benefiting those around her; not in teaching, and leaving them to practice; but in enforcing by example as she instils by her words those virtues which are valuable in all ranks, but essentially necessary to the poor, that is, to the great mass of mankind.

The principal vice against which the censure of our author is directed, is indolence, which she clearly proves

by a well conducted inference, from circumstances ingeniously and simply wrought together, to be the parent of many others much greater. She begins by a general outline of the village, but, as Sterne observes, finding herself lost and bewildered in the multitude of objects, she selects a single groupe, and fixing the reader's attention on a single family, in their artless tale, clearly proves the induction just now stated.

The village of Glenburnie is thus described.

"At length the village appeared in view. It consisted of about twenty or thirty thatched cottages, which, but for their chimneys, and the smoke that issued from them, might have passed for so many stables or hogsties, so little had they to distinguish them as the abodes of man. That one horse, at least, was the inhabitant of every dwelling, there was no room to doubt, as every door could not only boast its dunghill, but had a small cart stuck up on end directly before it; which cart, though often broken, and always dirty, seemed ostentatiously displayed as a proof of wealth.

"In the middle of the village stood the kirk, an humble edifice, which meekly raised its head but a few degrees above the neighbouring houses. It was, however, graced by an ornament of peculiar beauty. Two fine old ash trees, which grew at the east end, spread their protecting arms over its lowly roof; and served all the uses of a steeple and a belfry; for on one of the loftiest of these branches was the bell suspended, which, on each returning Sabbath,

"Rang the blest summons to the house
"of God."

"On the other side of the church-yard stood the Manse, distinguished from the other houses in the village, by a sash-window on each side of the door, and garret windows above; which shows that two floors were, or might be inhabited; for in truth the house had such a sombre air, that Mrs. Mason, in passing, concluded it to be deserted."

The farmer's house and garden is then picturesquely described.

"It must be confessed, that the aspect of the dwelling, where she was to fix her residence, was by no means inviting. The walls were substantial, built, like the houses in the village, of stone and lime; but they were blackened by the mud which the cart-wheels had spattered from the ruts in winter; and on one side of the door, completely covered from view by the contents of a great dunghill. On the other, and directly under the window, was a squashy pool, formed by the dirty water thrown from the house, and in it about twenty young ducks were at this time dabbling.

"At the threshold of the door, room had been left for a paving-stone, but it had never been laid; and consequently the place became too low, to the great advantage of the younger ducklings, who always found in it a plentiful supply of water, in which they could swim without danger. Happily Mr. Stewart was provided with boots, so that he could take a firm step in it, while he lifted Mrs. Mason, and set her down in safety within the threshold. But there an unforeseen danger awaited her, for the great whey pot had stood since morning, when the cheese had been made; and was at the present moment filled with chickens, who were busily picking at the bits of curd which had hardened on the sides, and cruelly mocked their wishes. Over this Mr. Stewart and Mrs. Mason unfortunately stumbled. The pot was overturned, and the chickens cackling with hideous din, flew about in all directions, some over their heads, and others making their way by the pallin (or inner door) into the house.

"The accident was attended with no farther bad consequences than a little hurt upon the shins: and all our party were now assembled in the kitchen; but though they found the doors of the house open, they saw no appearance of any inhabitants.

"By the help of Miss Mary's arm, Mrs. Mason got out into the open air, and gladly assented to her friend's proposal of taking a view of the garden, which lay at the back of the house. On going to the wicket by which it entered, they found it broken, so that they were obliged to wait until the stake which propped it was removed: nor was this the only difficulty

they had to encounter; the path, which was very narrow, was damp, by sippings from the dirty pool; and on each side of it, the ground immediately rose, and the docks and nettles which covered it, consequently grew so high, that they had no alternative but to walk sideways, or to separate.

"Ye'll see a bonny garden if ye gang on," said Mrs. MacClarty; "my son's unco proud o't."

"I wonder your son can let these weeds grow here so rank," said Miss Mary; "I think, if he is proud of the garden, he should take some pains to make the entrance to it passable?"

"O, it does weel eneugh for us," returned the contented mother. "But saw ye ever sic fine southern wood? or sic a bed o' thyme? we have twa rose bushes down yonder too, but we canna get at them for the nettles. My son gets to them by speeling the wa', but he would do any thing for flowers. His father's often angry at the time he spends on them."

"Your husband then has not much taste for the garden, I suppose," said Mrs. Mason; "and indeed so it appears, for here is ground enough to supply a large family with fruit and vegetables all the year round; but I see scarcely any thing but cabbages and weeds."

"Na, na, we have some leeks too," said Mrs. MacClarty, "and green kail in winter in plenty. We dinna pretend to kickshaws; green kail's gude eneugh for us."

"But," said Miss Mary, "any one may pretend to what they can produce by their own labour. Were your children to dress and weed this garden, there might be a pretty walk; there, you might have a plot of green pease, there, another of beans, and under your window you might have a nice border of flowers to regale you with their sweet smell. They might do this too at very little trouble."

"Ay, but they canna be fashed," said Mrs. MacClarty; "and it does just weel eneugh."

The inhabitants are such as may be expected in such a dwelling, the parents not devoid either of sense or industry, but incapable through indolence of giving these qualities their proper direction. The children idle, sullen, and self-willed. Mrs. Mason, after many vain endeavours to overcome their obstinacy, is at length forced to quit the family, and removes to a neighbouring cottage, which though poor, contains in it the germ of improvement. Here she begins to execute a plan that had suggested itself to her on her first arrival, of increasing the happiness of the whole village, by reforming their habits. Seconded by the village pastor and her hosts, she proceeds with success because she acts with system and moderation. The old fashioned prejudices are at length eradicated, and we are presented towards the conclusion with the following pleasing prospect of the village in its state of improvement.

"This striking indication of a change of sentiment in the most sturdy stickler for the *gude auld gaits*, foreboded the improvements that were speedily to take place in the village of Glenburnie. These had their origin in the spirit of emulation excited among the elder school-boys, for the external appearance of their respective homes. The girls exerted themselves with no less activity, to effect a reformation within doors; and so successful were they in their respective operations, that by the time the Earl of Longlands came to take possession of Hill Castle, when he, accompanied by his two sisters, came to visit Mrs. Mason at Glenburnie, the village presented such a picture of neatness and comfort, as excelled all that in the course of their travels they had seen. The carts which used formerly to be stuck up on end before every door, were now placed in wattled sheds attached to the gable end of the dwelling, and which were rendered ornamental from their coverings of honey-suckle or ivy. The bright and clear glass of the windows, was seen to advantage peeping through the foliage of the rose trees, and other flowering shrubs that were trimly nailed against the walls. The gardens on the other side were kept with equal care. There the pot-herb flourished. There the goodly rows of bee-hives evinced the additional nourishment afforded their inhabitants, and showed that the

flowers were of other use besides regaling the sight or smell.

"Mrs. Mason, at the request of her noble benefactress, conducted them into several of the cottages, where, merely from the attention paid to neatness, all had the air of cheerfulness and contentment. She was no less pleased than were the cottagers at the expressions of approbation which were liberally bestowed by her admiring friends; who particularly noticed the dress of the young women, which, equally removed from the slovenliness in which so many indulge on the working days, as from the absurd and preposterous attempt at fashion, which is on Sundays so generally assumed, was remarkable for neatness and simplicity. Great as was Mrs. Mason's attachment to the family of Longlands, she would not consent to relinquish her employment, and go to reside at Castle hill, as they proposed she should immediately do. She continued for some years to give her assistance to Morrison in conducting the school, which was now increased by scholars from all parts of the country; and was amply repaid for her kindness by the undeviating gratitude of the the worthy couple, from whom she experienced a constant increase of friendship and affection.

"The happy effects of their joint efforts in improving the hearts and dispositions of the youth of both sexes, and in confirming them in habits of industry and virtue, were so fully displayed, as to afford the greatest satisfaction to their instructors. To have been educated at the school of Glenburnie was considered as an ample recommendation to a servant, and implied a security for truth, diligence, and honesty. And fortunate was the lad pronounced, whose bride could boast of Mrs. Mason's favour and approbation; for never did these fail to be followed by a conduct, that insured happiness and prosperity."

Should any one wish to know how this extraordinary reform was accomplished, we refer him to the book itself, conscious that the extracts we could make would convey but a faint idea of its merits, and deprive the inquirer of no small degree of rational pleasure.

But it is not by instilling habits of cleanliness and industry in the lower orders, that this book may be useful. It shows that any person, however humble his original station, may rise to respectability and independence, by the practice of those virtues, the exercise of which is within every body's reach. Mrs. Mason, contrary to the established rule in all novels, is no where described as possessing any extraordinary qualifications. We are not told of her age, her size, looks, colour of her hair, or any circumstance to excite our interest. If we may guess from the effects excited on her first appearance, they appear to be rather unfavourable; yet there are few who when they have closed this little memoir, do not wish to be better acquainted with her. We wish she had taken a trip to Ireland: here she would have found much to improve, and much inclination for improvement. Perhaps her native country may yet be the subject of this amiable author's speculations. Till that time we would intimate to her the idea of rendering the present performance more generally known in the classes where alone it can be useful, by reducing it to the capacity of their purses. It would be unjust to propose what might diminish the well-merited profits of this work; but when the public curiosity is fully gratified by it in its present shape, we would strongly recommend the publication of a cheap edition for this special purpose. The rich frequently wish to better the condition of the lower classes, but they seldom undertake the affair the right way. They either stop short too soon, or go too far; and their advances are too often met with suspicious caution. We do not pretend to investigate the causes of this at present; but shall conclude with the observation, founded on long experience, that as vice has always a progressive increase downwards, from the rich to the poor, so every improvement in the morals of the people has taken the contrary direction, originating with the poorer, and gradually extending upwards, until it caught the higher classes, and forced them by an irresistible impulse to yield to the general current. Q.

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MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

IN the present state of the world, the person who undertakes the view of the politics of States and Empires, has a task to perform repugnant to every generous and humane feeling. When he considers mankind, the sublime ends for which they were formed, the capabilities of their nature, and all the good placed so obviously in their view, and within their grasp, as to appear soliciting their enjoyment of it—he shudders to behold them indignantly spurning the bounties of heaven, turning its best gifts into weapons of defiance, and fiercer than the brindled tiger—seeming only anxious to embrue their hands in the blood of each other. We leave the disorders of private society to the legislator and the moralist, while the contentions of nations and the public conduct of statesmen pass under our review; unhappily these latter burst with impunity the bonds of morality and legislation, while no powerful executive is found to visit their breach upon the guilty.

The clouds which appeared to lower during our last month's notice have now burst, and the shock has

been extensively felt. The two greatest nations on the Continent of Europe have commenced their *final* struggle, and mankind are agitated with hopes and fears commensurate to the importance which they attach to the termination of the contest.

Spain, Portugal, Sweden, are nearly lost sight of; their affairs are of smaller interest, and must take their direction according to the superior movement.

The immediate causes of the present war betwixt France and Austria seem involved in very convenient obscurity. The advocates on either side have the advantage of appropriating to themselves all the justice, and to their adversary all the turpitude and offence that can aggravate the most wanton aggression. The Austrian government is accused of ingratitude, of violating the oath of friendship made by the Emperor Francis to Bonaparte, when the latter crowned with victory held the destiny of Francis in his hands, and his breath could turn the balance in which empire and annihilation were suspended; of being partial to England and English *gold*, of secretly abetting the Spanish cause while publickly professing friendship to France, and of anxiously awaiting any embarrassment of the latter in order to renew hostility with more than former effect. On the other hand, the ministers of Francis exclaim loudly against the tyranny of Bonaparte to the powers of the Continent, especially the Germanic States, and that troublesome jealousy which will not permit an increase of their army without demanding explanation. In this apparent uncertainty, prudence might require silence; but as impartial spectators, as lovers of our country, we cannot help deploring a renewal of the system which has so often proved fatal to the allies of England, and injurious to her cause, and fortunate only for that man and country we have spent so much blood and treasure in vainly endeavouring to humble. The declarations of Austria, and the assertions of our own ministry, cannot weaken our opinion, that the two governments had come to a perfect understanding, before the former ventured to give Bonaparte cause of distrust by the distribution and increase of her army. The circumstance of Austria drawing bills to a large amount on the English treasury, Mr. Percival says indeed without advice, to enable her to commence the campaign, is only a corroboration of this opinion; and the easy confidence with which it was introduced in the House of Commons, shows that ministers were not taken unawares, but rather disappointed that she had not made a larger demand, and thereby given promise of a longer contest. The hostility of Austria seems to have been long meditated; but as in the case of Prussia, the indecision of weakness and fear lost the favourable moment, and now the rashness of despair from the same cause, urges her to certain destruction. We need not conceal that we think the probabilities are all against her; and that should she be eventually saved, it must be by causes at present as unforeseen and unexpected, as was little more than a year ago, that evanescent flash of patriotism which appeared in Spain to console the friends of freedom—and then left them confounded by its meteoric existence.

The first hostilities began on the part of Austria, about the 10th or 11th of April, by their troops passing the Inn and compelling the Bavarians to fall back; at the same time a proclamation was issued by the Arch-Duke Charles, announcing the step he had taken, his determination to treat as enemies all who should attempt to oppose him, and inviting the king of Bavaria to place himself under the protection of the Austrian army. His Majesty of Bavaria not liking this mode of invitation, left his capital for Augsburgh where the French were in considerable force; the Austrians soon after entered Munich, and possessed themselves of nearly all Bavaria, almost without opposition. On the 19th April we may say the Campaign really commenced at Pfaffenhoffen and Tann, near Augsburgh, where General Oudinot and the Dukes of Auerstadt (Davoust) and Dantzic (Lefebvre) attacked and defeated the Austrians, and took 11 or 12 hundred prisoners. At Abens-

berg on the 20th, Bonaparte at the head of the Bavarian troops, under General Wrede, and those of Wertemberg, commanded by General Vandamme, attacked the Arch-Duke Lewis, and General Hiller, whose corps was 60,000 strong, beat it and took 18,000 prisoners with a number of standards and cannon. The Prince Royal of Bavaria was in this battle, as were also the Dukes of Dantzic, and Montebello, (Lefebvre and Lasnes.)

The next day, the 21st. the French advanced against Landshut, before which city the Austrians were again defeated with the loss of 9,000 men, 30 pieces of cannon and a number of caissons and baggage waggons.

During these transactions the Arch-Duke Charles had come from Bohemia towards Ratisbon, which place he obliged to surrender and took 1,000 prisoners; he then proceeded into Bavaria with the view of putting a stop to the rapid progress of the French, and was at Echmuhl on the 22d. with 110,000 men; on the evening of which day he was attacked by Bonaparte, having under his orders the Dukes of Montebello, Auerstadt and Dantzic (Lasnes, Davoust and Lefebvre) when the Austrians sustained another defeat with the loss of great part of their artillery, many standards, and 20,000 made prisoners. The Arch Duke retreated upon Ratisbon where another engagement took place the next day, the 23d. the event of which was equally unfortunate; he was compelled to recross the Danube and retire into Bohemia, while Ratisbon with 8,000 prisoners fell into the hands of the French. During the engagement this day, General Count Bellegarde's corps arrived on the field of battle, but does not appear to have taken a part, or had any effect unless perhaps facilitating the retreat of the Arch-Duke.

Bonaparte's head-quarters were at Ratisbon the 24th. from whence he sent his troops in different directions, as if to scour a country where no very formidable opposition was apprehended. On that day the Duke of Rivoli (Massena) marched from Ratisbon with his corps for Passau, on the Inn, where he arrived the 26th a distance of 50 miles in two days, through a country which a week before had been in the entire possession of the Austrians. The French head quarters were transferred successively to Muhldorff, Burghausen, Braunau on the Inn, and Ried still farther on the main road to Vienna, on the southern side of the Danube; at which last place they continued on the 2d. instant.

In Italy the Austrian army under the Arch-Duke John seems to have been successful in the first attack, having driven back the Italian army commanded by the Viceroy (Eugene Beauharnois) in person. The Tyrolese also are said to have risen and expelled the French and Bavarians from the whole of their territory. Later accounts state that the Austrians have been compelled to retire to the Tagliamento with loss; and that the French have re-entered the Tyrol.

In Poland the Arch-Duke Ferdinand, with the division under his command, entered the Dutchy of Warsaw about the 19th April, and took the Capital of the same name without opposition. There were some rumours of a battle having previously taken place, but we have not been able to arrive at any authentic information.

We may now pause, and consider the sketch we have just given of those proceedings of the Belligerents which have already reached us. And here we can see nothing to distinguish the present, from the two last campaigns in Germany: the same rapid progress of the French armies, the same inability in her enemies to stem the impetuous torrent; even the consummate abilities of Moreau sometimes allowed the friends of Austria time to indulge a hope of their success, but the eagles of Bonaparte bear down these ill-fated combatants with a violence that often out-strips the worst apprehensions concerning them, The aim of Bonaparte seems in the first instance to be the possession of Vienna, which nothing can long save now but the Arch-Duke Charles risking another general engagement. At the end of April he was still retiring farther into Bohemia, while the Prince of Ponte Corvo (Bernadotte) with the Saxon auxiliaries, was advancing from the North of Germany, towards the theatre of war, by Egra,

which is somewhat in the Arch-Duke's rear. The possession of the Capital, besides the intrinsic advantages arising from its situation and the large supplies of stores collected there, will be still more favourable to the French cause by dispiriting the Austrian army, as was very observable last war at the battle of Austerlitz.

The Archduke Charles seems to have committed a capital error, by advancing so incautiously against the French army. After the capture of Ratisbon, instead of crossing the Danube, had he taken a strong position in the northern side of that river, he would have kept the enemy in check, given time to the beaten divisions of his own army to retire with some kind of order, and either join himself or act again as circumstances might require; but his over anxiety to stop the progress of the French, and give assistance to his brother and the other generals in Bavaria, who he might suppose were over-powered by superior numbers, led him to risk a general engagement, the unfortunate termination of which will probably, exclusive of the immediate consequences of defeat, have an unfavourable influence on the whole campaign. Delay must have been most advantageous to him, and proportionally detrimental to the intentions of Bonaparte.

The latest accounts announce the entrance of Bonaparte into Vienna on the 10th instant, without having experienced any further opposition; that the Archduke Charles was proceeding from Bohemia towards the Austrian frontier, and that the Emperor Francis had gone to the Archduke's head quarters.

According to Bonaparte's usual policy, he is again apparently leaving the Spanish peninsula to its fate, until he accomplishes an object which he considers of far greater importance. Were the Spanish people really animated with that vital spark which we have heard so much of, but whose effects have hitherto been so unoperative, now would be the time by a universal effort to deliver themselves entirely from French domination. We think that if proper measures were adopted the people might still be roused to a sense of their degradation. Were objects placed before them which are known to have a mighty influence on mankind; were advantages brought to bear on their feelings, sufficient to stir the latent spark of manhood in their bosoms, and warm them into men, we might still have hope of their cause; and Englishmen, who proudly boast of their constitution, might have the honour of emancipating a nation worthy of a better lot than they have long been destined to endure.

A free people in Spain and Portugal would be an effectual counterpoise to the extending influence of Bonaparte on the Continent. And surely the most unbounded liberty enjoyed by these two nations could not be more formidable to *us* than the whole population of Europe directed against our prosperity, our existence; and wielded by this most dexterous and inveterate adversary. If late accounts can be relied on, the state of affairs in those countries is more favourable than we had any right so soon to expect. The French, spread over a large extent of country, are unable to co-operate or support each other, and although the Spanish and Portugueze troops by themselves would be of little account, yet they serve to occupy attention, and we have a large force again in Portugal, under an officer, brave, skilful and enterprizing. Sir Arthur Wellesley, we venture to predict, will not compromise the honour of his country, nor tarnish its ancient military fame; and whatever may be the issue of the *present* expedition, we shall not have to deplore a lack of national honour at its termination. Should the Austrian war be considerably protracted, and continue serious enough to occupy Bonaparte's attention, his brother may again be compelled to take shelter beyond the Ebro; but unless the inhabitants of these countries, unless the Spaniards and Portugueze are *themselves* willing to be free, and not merely defended and protected by foreign arms, he will easily and at his leisure wrest back from us the prize won at such expense and hazard. Intelligence is received of Sir Arthur Wellesley having re-taken Oporto the 12th of May, after three smart actions with Marshal Soult, in which the latter was defeated each time, and obliged to retreat to Amarante in disorder, leaving great part of his artillery and stores behind him.

In the absence of information that

can be relied on, reports are industriously circulated of the partiality of Russia to the Austrian cause; but the emperor Alexander's interests are too dependent on his connection with France to allow these rumours an easy credit. Austria from its situation must be a greater object of jealousy to the Russian court than Bonaparte, and without the consent, and perhaps assistance of the latter, the views which this court is known to have long entertained with respect to Turkey, could never be even partially gratified. As to habits of friendship—Alexander's late conduct to the unfortunate Frederick, must ever banish the idea of his being influenced by so slender a tie. We see nothing then, which can give any hope of co-operation on the side of Russia.—Turkey indeed, is said to have declared war against this latter power; but surely it is not necessary now to enter on a description of that once mighty empire, to demonstrate the insignificance of any diversion she can make in our favour—Turkey and Austria, against Russia and France, is a volume on the subject. We hear that Russia declared war against Austria on the 25th of April, that the Russian army afterwards entered Gallicia in Poland, and gained a victory over the Austrians.

Since the revolution in Sweden the affairs of that country seem to have been conducted with singular prudence and moderation. If the king has any friends, or the late government any partisans, their number must be inconsiderable; for their voice is not heard to disturb the general satisfaction. The measure of assembling the states of the kingdom was a dictate of sound political wisdom; it has diffused joy through all ranks, and given them an assurance in which they seem to rest with confidence, that their grievances shall be redressed. When their ancient form of government is restored, and the people, by representatives freely chosen, recover their due weight and influence, no desolating interminable wars will be carried on without end or object; nor the very independence of the country endangered to gratify the caprice and ambition of a few leading individuals. When they shall be completely freed from that dreadful scourge, a war of personal motives, contrary to the national interests, they will then have time to consider their domestic policy; and by improving those sources of wealth and comfort which are not stinted to any soil or climate, Sweden may yet enjoy more real happiness than she has found since the splendid era of the great Gustavus. We fear, however, that the weakness of the *late* king has irrecoverably lost to Sweden a large portion of her territory, and that she will not be able to purchase safety but by assuming a hostile aspect toward us, who are considered by the two leading powers as the fomenters of all discord on the Continent of Europe.

The Duke of Sudermania has now occasion for all his prudence and experience. His speech at the opening of the Diet augurs favourably; it breathes a spirit of moderation and love of country, which shows the virtuous and enlightened Prince looking for happiness in the happiness of those entrusted to his care.

The relations of peace and amity according to present appearances, will speedily be re-established among the northern nations; and the Baltic be as closely shut against our commerce, as it is for a considerable part of the year by the hand of nature herself. On the 10th of May the States of Sweden, united in one assembly, unanimously passed a declaratory act, "that, Gustavus IV. and his issue are now, and for ever, deprived of the crown and government of Sweden."

Denmark seems anxious to consider Sweden again as a friendly power: her irritated feelings towards the late government of the latter for unmanly exultation over her in the hour of national calamity, it is not possible for justice and candour to condemn. Our national good faith was wantonly sacrificed on that occasion, for a paltry consideration; and what did we gain? that which in open warfare we might have gotten at half the expense, and in place of ancient friendship, a rancorous hostility, which ages of moderation will hardly be sufficient

to appease. Would that this act were blotted from the records of our country, and that we could no longer be branded as the violators of the most sacred rights of independent nations!

Without means of accurate information as to the measures pursued or contemplated by America, and kept equally uninformed by our Ministry of the progress made in any negociations they may be carrying on with her, what we say on that subject must chiefly be matter of surmise; and we do not like to wander too far in the region of conjecture.

The American government seems disappointed that the embargo produced no greater or more immediate effect on those powers, against which its operation was principally directed. Congress met under the influence of feelings arising from this disappointment, and thinking that the many evasions of the embargo which had taken place was the occasion, they proceeded to enact other laws to the same purpose, guarded by stronger sanctions. This was hardship enough to a people unused to the restriction of penal statutes, and being artfully and assiduously represented as unconstitutional by the Federal party, it was opposed with such violence, that congress had to give way, and almost immediately repeal their enactment.

The embargo was superseded on the 20th instant by a non-intercourse act, with the provisions of which we are not perfectly acquainted, but by late accounts they seem to have been enforced with such strictness, that several ships ready to sail were obliged to reland their cargoes.

Congress closed their late session equally unsatisfactorily to themselves and their constituents; and that which meets in the present month will be placed in an arduous situation, and will require more than ordinary wisdom and circumspection to conduct their deliberations to a happy issue.

Looking at America as spectators, we thought the embargo a wise measure at the time, and likely to produce the good they expected from it, which was, a temperate and forbearing conduct from France and England; and we still think it would have had this effect, had it been strictly observed. Its pressure, however, on themselves, was peculiarly severe; accumulating crops, unproductive capital, and many thousands of formerly useful citizens—and the principal means of enriching the state, now supported by public bounty; considering these things, we need not wonder at the embarrassment of the legislature, fluctuating between private distress and the public honour of their country. If, in this trying situation they yielded the latter to the former, however great and imperative the call, we may respect their motives, but cannot confer the praise of firmness upon their conduct. The government and inhabitants of a country, individually and collectively, should submit to every personal privation and sacrifice, rather than the imputation of dishonour should attach to their name. We trust that our government will not renew this subject, nor again force upon them the necessity of self-denying plans; but as a relaxation has lately taken place in some of our most obnoxious measures, that this will be followed by their total repeal, and such a system of conciliation adopted, as will ensure peace with America, while we are likely to have war with all the rest of the world.

ENGLAND.

Let us now turn our attention from the Continent, that scene of ill digested, and ill concerted plans on the one hand, and that mighty concentration of military force on the other, which is founded on the code of conscription, that vast iron screw, directed by the powerful energies of the autocrat, who, like his prototype Cæsar, appears to be actuated by the powerful principle alluded to by the Poet,

> ....." a soldier's shame, untaught to yield,
> Which blush'd for nothing but an ill fought field."

and proceed to take a view of our domestic situation.

The discussions which took place in the house of commons, on the conduct of the Duke of York, appear to have roused the latent energies of the British public, beyond what a short time ago seemed probable. When the business was brought forward, the ministerial party in the

house openly espoused the Duke's cause. The members of the former administration, the drilled ranks of opposition, kept aloof, and cautiously avoided committing themselves so as to make their return to power hereafter more difficult, or to tie up their own hands from corruption, if they should again become ministers. The *intermitting* Sheridan openly declared himself, and adopting the ministerial phrase, declaimed against the conspiracy to disgrace the illustrious house of Brunswick. Grattan and Ponsonby did not form a part of the honourable minority, who supported Wardle's motion, though on some of the qualifying, and accommodating motions, which succeeded, they voted against the minister. The names of Wardle, Burdett, Folkstone, Whitbread, and Romilly, stand pre-eminently conspicuous, as advocates of the *party* of the *people*. Among the thirty members who voted for Lord Folkstone's motion for general inquiry, we do not find *the name* of one leading member of the late administration. Conscience which makes so many cowards, probably whispered, that some tales might be unfolded, to prove that corrupt practises were not the exclusive property either of the ins or the outs. We recollect "the patriot's cloak," and "the dropping guinea from the crack'd bag—"

"Which jingling down the back stairs told the crew,
Old Cato is as great a rogue as you."

The proceedings of parliament were viewed with much interest by the people, and a burst of popular enthusiasm broke forth, which, that it may do good, we have only to wish may be permanent. The conduct of parliament was not such as to raise it in popular estimation. Lord Castlereagh, whose conduct was alluded to in our last retrospect, was acquitted by a majority of 216 to 167, although it clearly appeared that while he was a secretary of state, and president of the board of controul for India affairs, he used his influence in the latter capacity, to begin a bargain for trafficking for a seat in parliament for lord Cloncarty, one of his friends, by offering to give a writership in the East India company's service. He was principally defended on the ground of the bargain not having been completed, although no reluctance appeared on his part, *as servant of the people*, to dispose of the writership to promote parliamentary influence. In private life, a servant who attempted to betray his trust, would be discharged, though from the business not being completed, sufficient grounds for a criminal prosecution might not exist.

The house of commons have since passed a vote of censure on inferior criminals, the commissioners for taking care of Dutch property brought into Great Britain, when Holland in 1795 fell under the influence of France.—These commissioners retained large sums in their hands and applied the interest to their own emolument, while they also appropriated a commission of 5 per cent to themselves. It is worthy of notice that among these commissioners is the famous John Bowles, who was not disposed to serve his country for nought. He was one of the trio who edited the Antijacobin Review; they were George Canning, John Bowles, and the no less celebrated Hookham Frere, the redoubtable military instructor, who lately opposed himself to the prudent counsels of the lamented Sir John Moore in Spain. Bowles is a member of the society for the suppression of vice, the champion of religion and social order, against the horrors of that monster Jacobinism, which so long under the direction of the magician Pitt, frightened the good people of England, and made them so ready to identify abuses with the constitution. But let us hope that these days are past, and that the hypocrisy and interested motives of such defenders as the canting Bowles are unmasked. May a similar fate attend all those, who under the semblance of virtue are the supporters of vice!

A large body of the people have their thoughts now turned to parliamentary reform, from the conviction that the old trade of corruption must continue, if an efficient check, by means of a radical reform, is not put to it. They have seen the strugglers for political power, succeed each other in office, and forget the promises they

made while in opposition. Indeed while the present system of barter and sale continues, nothing better can be expected. To have a virtuous administration, there must be a virtuous parliament, and a virtuous people can alone constitute a virtuous parliament. Let us not be too hasty in throwing the blame off ourselves. If the electors are venal, and give their votes on interested motives, the representative may be expected to sell his vote, as he purchased his seat. If representatives must be paid for their support of ministers, either by places for themselves or their connections, or in some of the thousand ways, "which lend corruption lighter wings to fly," ministers must gratify them, or give place to less scrupulous successors. Through all the ramifications of society, the progress of corruption must be stopped. Even in private life, we see much of it. The expectants of places for themselves, or their relatives are numerous in the Church, the law, the army, the navy, and the revenue: and all these, unless in the instances, which it is hoped may be numerous, wherein virtuous principle counteracts selfish motives, are advocates for the continuance of corrupt influence. To assist in the cure of these complicated evils, a parliamentary reform is recommended by the most skilful state physicians: but to be effectual it must combine a scheme to lessen the price of his vote, and the cost of his seat to the representative, both which ends might probably to a certain degree be effected, by shortening the duration of parliaments, if to these measures further regulations were superadded.

For a view of the state of our present representation, we refer to the official documents, given at the end of this retrospect, for the resolutions entered into at the meeting of the freeholders of Hampshire, who not content with giving *empty thanks*, to the virtuous minority of 125, who supported Wardle,* pointed out, a remedy in reform, for the glaring evils which he brought before the public, as well as for all others in which the practice differs from the theory of the constitution. We likewise subjoin, and earnestly recommend to the perusal of our readers, the resolutions of the friends of reform held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in Westminster, on the 1st. instant, resolutions which at once are firm and temperate. The old stale objection that this is not the time for reform, is revived. But in the vocabulary of courtiers and courtly adherents, the portentous word, reform is not admitted. In peaceable times we are told to let things remain as they are, and in stormy seasons we are desired not to increase the dangers of the tempest: and thus the old fabrick of the constitution is not to be touched, either to prepare against the storm, or to use precautions to secure its stability, when the storm rages.

In consequence of the system to expose abuses, Mr. Madocks in the House of Commons brought a charge against Lord Castlereagh and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for corrupt practises in regard to seats in parliament: as to the former for actual interference, and against the latter for participating in the knowledge of the transaction. Among other cases alluded to, the instance of the borough of Cashel was particularly specified. It appears that through the agency of Lord Castlereagh a seat in this borough had been sold to Quintin Dick, esq. but when it was known that in the late investigation his vote would be against an acquittal, a kind of intimation or hint was given that he should vacate his seat, which he accordingly did. The complaint was two fold, against ministers interfering in the elections of members of parliament, and acting as wholesale traffickers, and monopolizers in boroughs; and, secondly, for attempting to coerce the vote of a member. Quintin Dick has since declared by letter, that Lord Castlereagh did not desire him to vacate his seat. Pro-

*It is reported that to *female patriotism* we are indebted in part for the successful exertions of this intrepid opposer of corruption. Mrs. Wardle, it is said, assiduously employed herself in examining papers and preparing notes for her husband, to assist him in his arduous labours.

bably the order did not come personally from him, but if there were no grounds for the charges, the way to refute it was obvious, by entering into the examination. Both sides of the house *coalesced* in negativing the inquiry, the numbers being 85 for the motion to examine, and 310 against it. The old opposition members with entire consistency voted against inquiring into conduct, which their own practice had sanctioned. The party for *the people* stood alone and unsupported, by either of the old contending parties.

In the present state of public opinion, the house of Commons, and the people do not act in unison. It remains to be seen whether the present burst of enthusiasm will be permanent or only as in other cases the fashion of the day. If the people act only from the impulse of the moment, or suffer themselves to be betrayed into intemperate conduct or expressions, the effervescence will probably subside into apathy but the expression of the public will declared with perseverence, firmness and coolness cannot fail, in time, of producing the most salutary effects, in promoting a real and radical reform. Two bills are now before the House of Commons, the one introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to prevent the sale of places, and the other by Mr. Curwen to prevent the purchase of seats in parliament. How far these bills will be made effective so as to answer their titles we must leave till we see them fully completed, and passed into laws: during which process they may yet undergo several alterations. It does not appear likely that the latter will be suffered to arrive at maturity, or if carried, would materially remove the evil.

That veteran in Reform, Christopher Wyvill, a clergyman of the church of England, who as chairman of the committee of the county of York, so ably advocated the cause of reform in the period previous to 1783 and 1784, when Reform was in fashion, and when Pitt was ranked among the reformers, but who did not join in the apostacy which succeeded, is now in his advancing years zealously engaged in a plan to promote religious liberty. He, in conjunction with a number of others, all of whom, with the exception of Dr. Disney, are members of the church of England, have a petition to parliament prepared to be presented during the present session, in which, embracing religious liberty in the most comprehensive sense, they pray that all political distinctions on account of religious opinions may cease, and all penal laws, whether affecting Catholics, or the several denominations of Protestant dissenters, and others, may be repealed. Let us hail the commencement of such a truly enlightened and liberal policy, as the abolition of political distinctions on account of opinions on the subject of religion. It may not receive its consummation for years to come—but when a beginning is made, let us trust to so just a sentiment gaining its way in time. The friends to progressive improvement receive consolation and encouragement from the final issue, after years of unsuccessful efforts, of the abolition of the African slave trade.

"Great is truth, and it will prevail."

The ninth Report of the Commissioners of Military Inquiry has been lately published, in which the army expenditure in the West Indies is the subject of investigation. Great frauds appear, and a Commissary-general is charged, "with having very early framed and established, by means of combinations and intricacies almost impervious, an over-ruling and highly injurious influence over the whole transactions of the public, connected with the pay, and enormous expenditures of the army in this part of the world." Some unfair transactions relating to the purchases of rum, wine, and flour, and also respecting the rates of exchange, being from 5 to 25 per cent beyond the prices at which the bills were credited to the public, are detailed, but which it would exceed our bounds to specify more particularly. This business has since undergone investigation in the courts of law. We sincerely hope that substantial justice may be done on all peculators, who, like leeches, have been long fastening on the vital strength of

these countries, but who, from the frequency of such crimes, and from the multitudes to keep each other in countenance, are not sufficiently held in deserved detestation.

SCOTLAND.

We have not hitherto, in the course of our political labours, alluded especially to this country. But we gladly embrace the opportunity of making the first mention of this our near neighbour, to relate an instance of public spirit in her sons. Many of the inhabitants of the town of Glasgow, who have been long remarkable for their public spirit, wished to manifest, by a public act, their approbation of the conduct of Colonel Wardle, and were among the foremost in Great Britain in expressing this sentiment. A respectful application was made to the Lord Provost for his permission and consent, to call a meeting of the inhabitants; he refused to comply in very direct terms, though in a polite and gentleman-like manner. Respect for the authority and deference to the opinion of the chief magistrate induced the gentlemen who had interested themselves in this proposal, to abandon the idea of a public meeting. They resolved on opening places for receiving signatures to an address to that independent member of parliament. They had fresh difficulties to encounter, for the editors of the Glasgow news-papers refused admission to the advertisement, giving notice of the places where the address was left to receive signatures. The payment of advertising was offered, and the editor of the Glasgow Courier took payment, but on the next day returned the money, intimating he was not at liberty to publish it. Such conduct of the editors of news-papers, so repuguant to the principles of freedom, and so destructive to the liberty of the press, excited disgust in a numerous class of their readers. One of them, the editor of the Herald, thought proper to apologize, but in terms which advanced principles as arbitrary as any contained in the most abject and servile parts of the Napoleon code. It is much to be regretted that the editors of news-papers in many places do not act more impartially, but have their views so much turned to court the favour of the few, so as to neglect the interests of the many, by whom they are supported. The committee say "they trust however, that some public-spirited individuals will soon attempt to establish a news-paper in that city, which shall give a faithful narrative of the great events, and important proceedings which at this portentous period are occupying the public attention, whose columns shall be open to every species of liberal and candid discussion, consistent with the principles of the constitution. A free press is the safe-guard of our rights, and if this palladium shall ever become servile and venal, the sources of political information will soon be polluted, the people's minds poisoned, the constitution trampled on, and the country ruined." To such sound doctrine we cordially subscribe.

Among the official documents will be found the address, and advertisements, as also the letter to Colonel Wardle and his answer. The address, notwithstanding all opposition, received the signature of upwards of 4000 subscribers. The inhabitants of Paisley and its suburbs, amounting to upwards of 4,400 have likewise thanked G. L. Wardle, esq. Lord Folkstone, Sir Francis Burdett and Samuel Whitbread, esq. and the other independent members who supported the question, as entitled to a just tribute of national gratitude, for the noble instance of zeal which they displayed in the face of no common opposition, and which it is hoped is only an earnest of the advantages to be derived from the combined efforts of the 125 honourable and independent representatives, who stood forward to stem the torrent of corruption.

In 1793 by the banishment of Muir and Palmer and others, Scotland was put down by the strong hand of power, while alarm and terror succeeded. But Scotland was only sleeping. Now that she is awaked, she is found not to have been completely paralytic, but suffering only under a temporary torpor.

IRELAND.

The hopes entertained of the meeting at Belfast have not been realised. Immediately on opening the meeting, an attempt was made to prevent any thing being done; but it was over-ruled. A coldly polite address was then voted to

Gwyllim Lloyd Wardle, esq. and, without specifying any by name, to every other member of the House of Commons who supported him, or voted with him. Such is the state of public spirit in the populous and opulent town of Belfast, that many despaired of any measure tending more effectually to promote reform being carried. Yet we cannot but regret that some possessing public spirit, or *civil courage*, a virtue so necessary and so rare, did not step forward with a resolution in favour of a cure for the evils which were admitted to exist: as we believe that many in that town sincerely wish well to the cause of reform, and "the progress of public opinion."

The inhabitants of Keady and its vicinity, in the county of Armagh, have returned thanks to G. L. Wardle, esq. and presented him with a piece of Irish linen, in token of their gratitude and real esteem. They have likwise voted thanks to Jas. Craig, esq. the representative for Carrickfergus, as forming an *honourable exception* to many of our Irish members, we believe to all our northern ones, by appearing in the minority of 125. We refer our readers to page 403 for their resolutions.

The county of Cavan has also published a vote of thanks to Mr. Wardle and his coadjutors. A protest agsinst those proceedings has been signed by some of the freeholders of that county. Henry Parnell, esq. brought forward on the 19th instant in the house of commons a motion for leave to bring in a bill to allow the clergy of Ireland to grant leases of tithes to their parishioners, for a term not exceeding twenty-one years; By this plan he intended to insure the land-holder against the uncertainty of the present mode of levying tythes, and to secure him against the evasions by which leases during incumbency are broken. He was supported by several of our Irish members, and opposed by some others: but the negative of the minister prevailed, and the motion was got rid of by the previous question being carried by a majority of 137 to 62. A wise government concedes to the wishes of the people; but in the opinion of some, not a stone of the old building, however misshapen or tottering it may appear, must be touched, lest more should be brought down with it. A greater grievance does not exist in Ireland than the present system of tything. The people suffer, and in many instances the situation of the clergy is not comfortable.

On the 24th inst. the Catholics had a meeting in Dublin, the Earl of Fingall in the chair, to consider of the propriety of petitioning Parliament. At this meeting, some diversity of opinion prevailed. We hail it as a favourable omen. It is pleasant to see free discussion liberally exercised, and the rights of private judgment displayed in matters which interest so numerous a class of our fellow-citizens, and by which a genuine spirit of liberty is kept alive among them.

A proposal was made to address parliament: but considering the advanced period of the session, an amendment was proposed, that the petition should be prepared to be presented at the early part of the next: and in the mean time notice be given in parliament of such intention. This plan was at length adopted, after the following resolutions had been carried by a majority.

Resolved. We, the Catholics of Ireland, have made repeated petitions for the relief of our grievances.—The greatest and wisest of men, both in and out of parliament, both in and out of office, were decidedly in favour of the expediency and justice of our claims; and they further insisted, that it was necessary to the very existence of the empire, to interest in its defence a population of from four to five millions of Catholics, constituting more than a fourth of the United Kingdom. We are now unhappily and experimentally convinced, that no principle of justice, no force of reasoning, is sufficient to counteract a malignant influence which threatens the empire with general contamination, and consequent destruction. Public delinquents and defaulters would put to hazard the existence of the reigning family, and the integrity of the empire, rather than restore the people to the privileges of the constitution, which would produce such wholesome reform of abuses, as must deprive themselves of the opportunity of undue influence and peculation. Under these discouraging circumstances, without hope of success at present, we are unwilling to agitate our claims by petitions to Parliament, feeling that rejection might encrease the discontent already existing in our body; and

we cannot be indifferent to the pernicious effect of acquainting authentically, through the debates of the British parliament, our potent and too successful enemy, with the internal divisions and corruptions of the state, in the only powerful nation not yet subject to his controul."

It is highly gratifying to our feelings to express our conviction, that the question of Catholic emancipation has made considerable way in England during the last two years. We think we had pleasing evidence of this progress in public opinion during the discussions which took place last year in parliament, on the Catholic petition. The greater part of the literary class, espouse the cause of emancipation; among whom the Edinburgh and Monthly Reviewers take a conspicuous place: the lively Letters of Peter Plymley are said to have passed an eleventh edition. It is to the honour of literature that it tends to expand the heart, and is favourable to the cause of liberality. We fondly hope that in Great Britain the, "No popery cry," is silent to be heard again no more, and that some who were active in promoting it, like men recovering from a paroxysm of passion, are ashamed of their conduct. May our Irish brethren of all denominations forget their former animosities, fostered more by political distinctions, and differences rather from their relative situations, than from dissensions arising from the nature of opposite creeds. There is at present more of civil disunion, than of religious contest among us, though the former is allowed to be the effect of the latter, in more distant periods. It is a prevailing sentiment to allow to each other the liberty to form our own opinions on matters of religion. Why then should we perpetuate the distinctions which formerly arose from the narrow and contracted plan of acting? The rights of private judgment when we do no injury to our neighbour, and leave him unmolested also in his rights should be sacred, and free as the light of heaven.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

From the London Gazette, Saturday, April 29.

At the Court at the Queen's Palace, the 26th of April, 1809, present, the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

Whereas his Majesty, by his Order in Council of the 11th November, 1807, was pleased, for the reasons assigned therein, to order, that "all the ports and places of France and her allies, or of any other country at war with his Majesty, and all other ports or places in Europe, from which although not at war with his Majesty, the British flag is excluded, and all ports or places in the colonies belonging to his Majesty's enemies, should from thenceforth be subject to the same restrictions, in point of trade and navigation, as if the same were actually blockaded in the most strict and rigorous manner;" and also to prohibit "all trade in articles which are the produce or manufacture of the said countries or colonies;" and whereas his Majesty having been nevertheless desirous not to subject those colonies which were in alliance or amity, to any greater inconvenience than was absolutely inseparable from carrying into effect his Majesty's just determination to counteract the designs of his enemies, did make certain exceptions and modifications expressed in the said Order of the 11th of November, and in certain subsequent Orders of the 25th of November, declaratory of the aforesaid Order of the 11th of November and the 13th of December, 1807, and the 30th of March, 1808.

And whereas, in consequence of divers events which have taken place since the date of the first-mentioned Order affecting the relation between Great Britain and the territories of other powers, it is expedient, that sundry parts and provisions of the said Orders should be altered or revoked:

His Majesty is therefore pleased, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to revoke and annul the said several Orders, except as herein after expressed, and so much of the said several Orders, except as aforesaid, is hereby revoked accordingly.

And his Majesty is pleased, by and with the advice of his Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that all the ports and places, as far north as the river Ems inclusively, under the government stiling itself the kingdom of Holland, and all ports and places under the government of France, together with the colonies, plantations and settlements in the possession of those governments respectively, and all ports and places in the northern parts of Italy, to be reckoned from the ports of Orbitello and Pesaro inclusively, shall continue and

be subject to the same restrictions, in point of trade and navigation, without any exception, as if the same were actually blockaded by his Majesty's forces in the most strict and rigorous manner; and that every vessel trading from or to the said countries or colonies, plantations or settlements, together with all goods and merchandize on board, shall be condemned as prize to the captors.

And his Majesty is further pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that this order shall have effect from the day of the date thereof, with respect to any ship, together with its cargo, which may be captured subsequent to such day, on any voyage which is and shall be rendered legal by this Order, although such voyage, at the time of the commencement of the same, was unlawful and prohibited under the said former Orders; and such ships, upon being brought in, shall be released accordingly; and with respect to all ships, together with their cargoes, which may be captured in a voyage which was permitted under the exceptions of the Orders above-mentioned, but which is not permitted according to the provisions of this Order, his Majesty is pleased to order, and it is hereby ordered, that such ships and their cargoes shall not be liable to condemnation, unless they shall have received actual notice of the present Order before such capture; or in default of such notice, until after the expiration of the like intervals from the date of this Order, as were allowed for constructive notice in the Orders of the 25th of November, 1807, and the 18th of May, 1808, at the several places and latitudes therein specified.

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, and Judges of the Courts of Vice-Admiralty, are to give the necessary directions therein, as to them may respectively appertain.

STEPHEN COTTERELL.

PROCLAMATION.

FRANCIS I. by the Grace of God, Emperor of Austria, &c.

"People of Austria!—I leave my capital to join the brave defenders of the country, assembled on the frontiers, for the protection of the State.

"For these three years past I have made the utmost exertions to procure you, my beloved subjects, the blessings of a permanent peace. No sacrifice, any ways consistent with your welfare and with the independence of the State, however painful, have I spared, to secure your tranquillity and welfare by a friendly understanding with the Emperor of the French.

"But all my endeavours proved fruitless. The Austrian monarchy was also obliged to submit to the boundless ambition of the Emperor Napoleon; and in the same manner he strives to subdue Spain, insults the sacred Head of the Church, appropriates to himself the provinces of Italy, and parcels out the German dominions; Austria was to do homage to the *great empire*, the formation of which he has loudly announced.

"I have adopted all necessary measures for the independence of the State. Not only have ye answered my call, but the love of your native country has prompted you to anticipate it. Accept my cordial thanks; they will be repeated by my posterity and yours. Self-defence, not invasion, was our aim. But the Conqueror will not allow the Sovereign of his People, strong in their mutual confidence, to possess sufficient means to oppose his selfish views. He declared himself hostile to Austria, unless she should relinquish her measures of defence, and prostrate herself, disarmed, at his feet.—The disgraceful proposal was rejected; and now his hosts are advancing against us, arrayed for battle.

"I confide in God, in the valour of my armies, in the heroic conduct of my brother, who leads them out to glory, in you, my beloved people; our exertions for this war are great, but such they must be, in order to attain more securely the important end of self-preservation.

"What you have hitherto done, is the most unquestionable pledge of the powerful assistance which I am to receive from you. They who bear no arms, will also share in the protection of their country. Unanimity, order, obedience, activity and confidence constitute the real strength of a nation. You have evinced to them, and to this alone it is owing, that we start with a fairer prospect of success than we ever did. Fortunate events will not unnerve your energy, nor disastrous occurrences, should any happen, shake your firm resolve. Persevering valour overcomes all dangers, enhances every advantage, and supplies all losses. Our cause is just, Providence does not forsake those who do not forsake themselves.

"I depend on your love, your tried fidelity to your prince and country. De-

pend ye on the paternal solicitude of your monarch, who finds all his happiness in yours.

(Signed) "FRANCIS."

Vienna, April 8, 1809.

REFORM OF PARLIAMENT.

CROWN AND ANCHOR DINNER.

Yesterday the Meeting of the Friends of Reform was attended by above a thousand gentlemen, who dined together.

At five the doors of the Great Room were thrown open, and the room was full in a very few minutes. Several other rooms were also thrown open for the reception of the company who could not get admission into the Great Room.

Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Cochrane, Mr. Wardle, and several of the stewards, entered together, and were received with very loud applauses.

The first toast which was given after dinner was, "The King, and the principles which seated his family on the throne." This toast was premised by the Chairman (Sir Francis Burdett) with an observation, that the Sovereign was the person who was most deeply interested in the promotion of those measures, which they then assembled to promulgate. The toast was drank with loud applauses. The second toast was, "The People," and the third, "The progress of Public Opinion," which were also drank with loud applause.

Sir Francis Burdett then rose, and addressed the meeting in a speech, replete with eloquence, which our limits do not permit us to enter upon.

Major Cartwright afterwards moved the following resolutions, which were carried *nem. con.*

Resolved, 1. That it is the grand principle of the Constitution, that the people shall have a share in the government, by a just representation in Parliament.

2. That the long duration of Parliament greatly facilitates the corruption of the members, and removes that wholesome check or controul on their conduct, a frequent recurrence to the opinion of their constituents.

3. That in a petition presented to the House of Commons, on the 6th of May, 1793, it was offered to be proved at the bar, "that 154 individuals did, by their own authority, appoint, or procure the return of 307 members of that House," (exclusive of those from Scotland) "who are thus enabled to decide all questions in the name of the whole people of Great Britain."

4. That this meeting believes individual patronage in boroughs has increased since 1793—that the representation of Scotland is extremely influenced and unfree—that there are great defects in that of Ireland—and that in the English boroughs called OPEN, the returns are for the most part obtained for money: wherefore, upon the whole, it is the opinion of this meeting, that a great majority of the members of the Commons House, are so returned, that the Nation is not constitutionally represented; while yet it is taxed to support an expenditure of seventy millions sterling a year.

5. That in the Act (commonly called the Act of Settlement) which placed the House of Brunswick on the throne of these realms, it was asserted, and recognized as the constitutional principle, that no person who "has an office or place of profit under the king, or receives a pension from the crown, shall be capable of serving as a member of the House of Commons."

6. That it appears, by a report laid on the table of the House of Commons in June last, that 78 of its members are in the regular receipt, under the crown, of 178,994*l.* a year.

7. That in 1782 it was declared by Mr. Pitt in the House of Commons, that "seven or eight members of that House were sent there by the Nabob of Arcot, and that a foreign state in enmity to this country might procure a party to act for it under the mask and character of members of that House."

8. That such a state of representation is a national grievance.

9. That in every department of the state, into which inquiry has been made, scandalous corruptions and abuses have been detected.

10. That the exclusion of the public voice from all influence in, and the consequent corruption of the governments of the continental states, have been the causes of their subjugation.

11. That so long as the people shall not be fairly represented, corruption will increase; our debts and our taxes will accumulate: our resources will be dissipated; the native energy of the people will be depressed; and the country deprived of its best defence against foreign foes.

12. That to remedy the great and glaring evils of which we complain, it is not necessary to have recourse to theoretical speculations, or dangerous experiments in government, but to recur to the principles handed down to us by the wisdom and virtue of our forefathers.

13. That the remedy is to be found, and to be found only in a full and fair representation of all the people in the

Commons House of Parliament; a remedy equally necessary to the safety of the throne, and the happiness and independence of the country.

14. That we therefore recommend to every town, city, and county, to take the state of the representation into consideration, and urgently, but temperately, to apply to Parliament to adopt such measures as shall secure to the nation the reality and uses of representation.

Colonel Wardle, Lord Cochrane, Mr. Madocks, Mr. Waithman, Mr. Townsend, Mr. W. Smyth, and others, severally expressed their sentiments before the meeting was dissolved.

HAMPSHIRE RESOLUTIONS.

April 25th, 1809.

The High Sheriff of the county in the chair.

"Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to Gwyllym Lloyd Wardle, esq. for having instituted the recent inquiry in the house of commons relative to the conduct of his Royal Highness the Duke of York; for having unconnected with, and unsupported by, any faction or party, prosecuted that laudable undertaking with talent and zeal, temper and perseverance, rarely to be met with; and especially for having had the resolution thus to discharge his duty, in defiance of the threats of the king's servants, and in spite of the prejudices endeavoured to be excited against his charges, through the false and hypocritical pretence that they proceeded from a Jacobin conspiracy; a pretence which, for many years past, has been the best ally of corruption, and through the means of which pretence, artful and wicked men have but too long stifled the voice of truth, have abused the ear and drained the purses of this unsuspecting and loyal nation:—That the thanks of this meeting be given to Sir Francis Burdett, bart. who seconded Mr. Wardle's motion for the inquiry, and also to lord viscount Folkestone, for the active and zealous assistance which his lordship afforded Mr. Wardle during the whole of the proceedings connected therewith; and to both of these gentlemen for their able and constitutional speeches in the discussion upon Mr. Wardle's motion of the 8th of March, and the subsequent discussions, arising out of the evidence taken during the said Inquiry:—That the thanks of this meeting be given to Lords viscount Milton and Althorpe; to Lord Stanley; to the Hon. T. Brand and W. H. Lyttleton; to Sir S. Romilly, and Sir T. Turton; to major-general Ferguson; and to S. Whitbread, J. C. Curwen, T. W. Coke, H. Martin, J. Calcraft, and C. W. W. Wyne, esquires, who during the discussions aforementioned, stood forward the advocates of impartial justice; and also to the minority of 125, who divided in favour of Mr. Wardle's motion, amongst whom we, as Hampshire-men, observe with pleasure and with pride, the names of Sir. H. Mildmay, bart. and of Admiral Markham, and Newton Fellows, esq. while we, though not with very great surprise, observe, and trust that the fact will be remembered, that the name of neither of the members for this County does appear upon that honourable list:—That, in the course of the abovenamed Inquiry, acts of meanness, profligacy, and corruption, unparalleled, as we firmly believe in the history of any Government in the world, have been brought to light, and proved to our perfect conviction; and that while we, as Englishmen, and loyal subjects, cannot help feeling sorrow and shame at seeing the Son, and indignation at seeing so many of the servants of our Sovereign involved in such scandalous transactions, we cannot, as men setting a proper value upon religious instruction and example, help entertaining the same feelings, and, if possible in an aggravated degree, at seeing deeply implicated in those transactions, no less than five ministers of the established church; nor can we refrain from an expression of our anxious hope, that the Clergy in general (following, in this respect, the example of the two Reverend Gentlemen who signed the Requisition for this Meeting) will lose no opportunity of inculcating an abhorrence of such practices, and thereby of showing, that the church, like her Founder, is no respecter of persons, and that her endowments are not received as the wages of dependence and sycophancy, but as the worthy hire of the labourer in the vineyard of Christian piety, and of private and public virtue:—That in adverting to the cause of the injurious and disgraceful acts, thus revealed and demonstrated, this meeting cannot help observing, that in the Act of Parliament, commonly called the Act of settlement, in virtue of which act and of which act only, his majesty's family was raised to the throne of this kingdom, it is declared, "that no person who has an office, or place of profit, under the king, or receives a pension from the crown, shall be capable of serving as a member of the house of commons;" but that, notwithstanding the wise precaution of this act, which is one of our great constitutional laws, and which, as its preamble

ble expresses, was made "for the further limitation of the crown, and better securing the rights and liberties of the subject," it appears from a report laid before the house of commons in the month of June last, in consequence of a motion made by lord Cochrane, that there are in that house seventy-eight placemen and pensioners, who, though part of what they receive is not stated, are, in the said report, stated to receive 178,994*l.* a year out of the taxes raised upon the people, and, of course, out of the money, to watch over the expenditure of which they are appointed:——That, if any doubt could have remained, as to the baneful effects of such a state of the house of commons, that doubt must have been removed by the rejection of Mr. Wardle's above-mentioned proposition, in the teeth of the clearest and most conclusive evidence, positive as well as circumstantial, written as well as verbal; and upon which occasion it appeared that all the king's ministers, all the placemen and all the pensioners then present, voted against the said proposition:——That, in the act of parliament, commonly called the Bill of Rights, it is declared, "That the election of members of parliament ought to be free," and, in the same act it is declared, "That the violating of the freedom of elections of members to serve in parliament;' was one of the crimes of king James the 2nd, and one of the grounds upon which he was driven from the throne of this kingdom, but that, notwithstanding this law, which is said to be one of the great bulwarks of the constitution, and notwithstanding divers other laws, made for the purpose of preventing undue returns of members of parliament, it does appear, from evidence given during the above-said inquiry, that Lord Clancarty and Lord Viscount Castlereagh, both of them servants of the king, and the latter a privy counsellor, a secretary of state, and a member of the house of commons, did offer to give a writership in the East Indies, in exchange for a seat in the house of commons, and that the failure of that corrupt negociation was owing, not to any disinclination on their part, but on the part of the seat-seller, to whom the offer was made:——that this meeting have observed, that during a debate in the house of commons, on the 20th of this month, upon the subjects of the aforesaid inquiry, Thomas Creevey, esq. one of the honourable minority of 135, did distinctly state, that, it was not only his belief, but that it was within his own knowledge, that seats in parliament had been bought and sold; that the treasury not only openly bought and sold those seats, but kept, in a great degree, a monopoly of the market, and that it was perfectly well known, that a dissolution of parliament was not an appeal to the people, but an appeal to the treasury; and that this meeting have further observed, that, in answer to the statement of Mr. Creevey (for which that gentleman is entitled to our particular thanks) the king's minister, Mr. Perceval, did not attempt to deny the facts alledged, but contented himself with insinuating, that the opposite party, when in power, had been guilty of similar practices:—That, from the foregoing facts, as well as from numerous others, notorious to the whole nation, this meeting have a firm conviction, that it is in the house of commons, as at present constituted, that exists the great and efficient cause of that profligacy of manners amongst so many in high life; of that corrupt disposal of offices; of that endless train of unpunished peculations; of that squandering of our earnings and incomes; of that establishment of an army of foreigners in the heart of our country; of that incapacity in the conducting of public affairs, both at home and abroad; and of all that national misery and disgrace which have been but too long so severely felt, and the dangers to be apprehended from which, have now attracted the serious attention of even the most thoughtless and unobserving:——That, therefore, this meeting, anxious alike for the preservation of his Majesty's throne, and legitimate authority, and for the restoration of the rights and liberties bequeathed them by the wisdom, the fortitude, and the valour of their forefathers, hold it a duty which they owe to their Sovereign and his successors, to themselves and their children, to the safety, happiness, and renown of their country, to declare their decided conviction, that no change for the better can reasonably be expected, without such a reform in the commons house of parliament, as shall make that house, in reality as well as in name, the representatives of the people, and not the instruments in the hands of a minister; and further to declare, that it will be expedient for us, at a future convenient time, to assemble in county-meeting, in order to consider of a petition to the king, praying that his majesty will be graciously pleased to afford us his royal countenance and support in our constitutional efforts against a faction of borough mongers, not less hostile to the true dignity and just pre-

rogatives of his Majesty's Crown, than to the interests and feelings of his faithful, suffering, and insulted people.

"Resolved unanimously, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Wm. Powlett Powlett and Wm. Cobbett esquires, and the other sixty-nine Members for the part they respectively took in calling the Meeting, and for their conduct thereat.

"Resolved unanimously, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the High Sheriff, for his readiness in convening the same, and for the impartiality with which he presided.

Resolved unanimously, that these resolutions be signed by the sheriff, in the name, and on behalf of the meeting, and that the same be printed and published in the county papers, and in the Statesman, the Morning Chronicle, the Times, and the Courier London newspapers; and that the Sheriff be requested to forward the vote of thanks to Gwyllym Lloyd Wardle, esq.

Signed on behalf of the meeting,
JOHN BLACKBURN, sheriff."

To those Resolutions, as well as the following, and the many others, which our limits would not allow us to insert, Colonel Wardle returned handsome replies, in constitutional language expressed with firmness and noble independence.

A JUST TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WARDLE.

As a wish has been very generally expressed by the inhabitants of this city and its neighbourhood, that Colonel G. L. WARDLE, M. P. should be publickly acknowledged for his present arduous undertaking, an opportunity will be afforded them of doing so, by subscribing an Address to that independent member of the British Parliament, of which the tenor follows:

We, hereunto subscribing, inhabitants of the city and suburbs of Glasgow, hereby testify our unbiassed and unprejudiced opinion—*That Colonel Wardle, by first stepping forward, and by his conduct throughout the whole of the investigation now pending in the Honourable the House of Commons relative to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, has proved himself to the world, to be one of the most magnanimous, patriotic, firm, and candid men in his Majesty's dominions.*

All those who wish to mark and distinguish the conduct of this intrepid and persevering Representative of the People and who concur in the plain and obvious sentiment contained in the above address, will have an opportunity of joining in expressing it, by signing subscription-papers, which will be opened for that purpose on Thursday first.

Glasgow, March 15th, 1809.

GLASGOW NEWS-PAPERS, AND
COLONEL WARDLE.

The Public are respectfully informed, that the Committee conducting the Address to Colonel Wardle, made application to the Publishers of the Herald, Courier, and Western Star, requesting them to insert the former hand-bill, but for reasons, best known to themselves, it was refused.

The Committee have, therefore, no choice, but to address the Public, through the medium of this bill, intimating, that the subscription will FINALLY CLOSE on MONDAY the 20th current.

It is expected, therefore, that all those who believe that "Righteousness exalteth a Nation, but sin is a reproach to any People," and who wish to avert those public calamities, with which nations, for their crimes, are always visited, will not neglect this opportunity of endeavouring to stem the torrent of corruption and public vice, which just now threatens to overwhelm the land, by testifying their approbation of a British Senator, who has stood forward almost alone and unassisted, to grapple with Immorality in the plenitude of its power, and in its most hideous and degrading form.

Glasgow, March 18th, 1809.

However great the disadvantages were, under which the Committee laboured, from the Newspapers refusing the advertisements, and many other discouragements thrown in the way, by officious, ignorant, and contemptible individuals, in six days, 4500 persons subscribed the Address.

No time was lost in getting it forwarded to London, where it was sent to the charge of the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Folkstone, with a request that his Lordship would have the goodness to present it to Colonel Wardle. A letter, of which the following is a copy, accompanied the Address.

G. L. WARDLE, Esq.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward you an Address from a considerable portion of the inhabitants of this city and suburbs, who, animated with a spark of that independence of mind which shines so conspicuously in your character, felt themselves called upon to give this public testimony of the high estimation in which they hold your parliamentary conduct, and their unequivocal approbation of the constitutional, manly, and candid manner, in which you brought forward, and carried on the investigation relative to

his RoyalHighness the Duke of York. We hesitate not to express it as our opinion, that you have, in every respect, shown yourself worthy of the honourable appellation of an *Independent British Senator;* an appellation, Sir, that will be coupled with your name, and that of your noble supporters in this inquiry, while the annals of Britain remain.

To you, Sir, who have so nobly struck corruption at its source, and in spite of every difficulty and prejudice, so firmly stood forward to stem its torrent; to your honourable friends, Lord FOLKSTONE, Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, SAMUEL WHITBREAD, esq. and to the other worthy and independent Representatives of the People, who have supported you on this occasion, we are indebted for having shown us, that we have a constitution worthy of being preserved; the latent energies of which, when called into action by a faithful Representative, can shake power, however great, and subject to investigation the official conduct and administration of the highest Officer in the State.

Great as the difficulties may have been which you had to encounter in your arduous undertaking, we think it necessary to state, that in conducting this Address we also have had our share of these to overcome, as the following brief narrative of facts will show.

A public meeting was proposed among a few of our citizens, for the purpose of moving this Address, and a deputation was appointed to wait on the Lord Provost, to obtain his consent to the measure. A decided negative, however, was given to our proposal. Being thus disappointed, we determined to persevere, but were compelled to adopt the more silent, but no less efficacious mode of opening subscription papers in different parts of the city. Even this was attempted to be rendered as ineffectual as possible, by the publishers of the Newspapers here, refusing to insert our Advertisement, affording a melancholy proof of the undue influence exercised over that palladium of our liberties—the press—and leaving to us the alternative only, of calling forth the public attention, by a liberal distribution of posting and hand bills.

In the face of all these impediments, and many more little indirect tricks which have been played off, and no small share, even of obloquy and reproach, nay of *democracy and sedition*, the committee conducting this address are proud to say, that in six days at least 4000 inhabitants have voluntarily annexed their signatures.

This address, sir, we now beg leave to present to you, through the medium of that worthy nobleman lord Folkstope, as the voluntary and unbiassed conviction of our minds; under the impression, that the approbation of 4000 of your fellow-subjects will not be rejected. It contains, sir, the genuine signatures of those whose hands are unsullied with the public plunder, and to such, headed by patriots like you, our much-abused country must look for its safety, in the hour of danger.

Though you, sir, have already done much, and we are induced to believe, from your bright example, that yet there is hope, that the corruption and abuses which have so long existed, and preyed on the vitals of our country, will be checked and removed; and that vice and immorality, will, as ashamed, be made to hide their heads—yet much remains to be done. Persevere, then, sir, in the glorious course you have begun, and that you may long remain an ornament to your country, and a blessing to generations yet unborn, is the sincere wish of, most respectfully,

In the name, and by order of
the Committee, Sir,
Your most obedient,
Glasgow, And very humble servant,
March 24, 1809. ROBERT HASTIE.

ADDRESS OF THE INHABITANTS OF PAISLEY.

Sir,

I have the honour of transmitting, through the medium of Sir Francis Burdett, bart. an Address subscribed by upwards of Four Thousand Four Hundred Inhabitants of the Town and Vicinity of Paisley, who are anxious to contribute the little in their power to the numerous marks of approbation you are receiving from a grateful country, and which is so highly merited by you, for that noble instance of zeal for the public welfare which you displayed, in the face of no common opposition, in bringing forward unaided and alone, the important charges against the late Commander-in-Chief, which, we trust, will be followed by salutary effects to our suffering Country.

We also, with peculiar pleasure, congratulate you on the support received from Sir Francis Burdett, Lord Folkestone, and Samuel Whitbread, esq. in the progress of that memorable and important Inquiry. We, Sir, do indulge the hope, that this service is only an earnest of the advantages this nation will yet derive from the combined efforts of the One Hundred and Twenty-Five honourable and independent Representatives who so faithfully adhered to the cause of their Country. Go on Sir, in the brilliant course in which you have entered, by endeavouring to detect and expose injustice and corruption, in whatever department of the State it may be found; never induced, by the opposition

of powerful and interested men, to relax your exertions for the public good. That you may long remain the guardian of the legitimate principles of the Constitution, and the protector of the rights and privileges of British Subjects; and that your fame may live in the remembrance of a grateful People, and descend, with increasing lustre, to the latest posterity, is the sincerest wish of (in name and by appointment of the Committee) Sir, Your most obedient and very humble servant.

ALEX. STEVENSON,

Colonel G. L. Wardle, M. P.

Paisley, 26th April 1809.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE INHABITANTS OF KEADY.

Resolved 1st—That, as the profligacy and corruption of Rulers and of those who exercise authority under them, have uniformly led to the subversion of governments, states, and empires, in which they prevailed; we consider every exertion by which their introduction may be prevented, their progress checked, or their influence destroyed, in a Monarchy, Oligarchy, or Republic, as highly meritorious, and justly entitled to the approbation and gratitude of every member of the state.

2dly—That, in our opinion, such approbation and gratitude are justly due to the patriotic virtue of G. L. WARDLE, esq. for instituting an inquiry into the conduct of the DUKE of YORK, late commander-in-chief of the British forces; and the zeal fortitude, and perseverance with which he prosecuted said inquiry, so honourable to himself and interesting to his country.

3dly—That, under this conviction, we hereby offer him our sincere and honest thanks, for his manlike, independent, and well-conducted exertions in his country's cause; and we presume to express our hope and confidence, that he will not abandon his inquiries till public corruption shall be traced through all her channels, even to her highest sources; dragged from her banquets and her bagnios, and exposed to public detestation, not only as the voracious monster which exhausts the resources of the State, and dissolves the sinews of war in the lap of profligacy, but the fiend which irritates the minds of the people, by abusing their confidence, poisons their spirits with discontents, and excites murmurs which may swell into a storm, whose violence may shiver the bonds of social order, and endanger the stability of the Throne.

4thly—That we hereby offer our thanks also to the VIRTUOUS and VICTORIOUS minority, who supported G. L. WARDLE, esq. in his honourable and patriotic inquiry; and whilst we perceive, with heart felt regret, so few names of our countrymen in the virtuous and dignified band, we recognize, with equal pleasure that of JAMES CRAIG, esq. whom we hail—to whom we offer our thanks—and of whom we are proud—not as *a* representative of *our* county, but *the* representative of *our* province, on the late momentous question.

5thly—That in testimony, not only of our gratitude but real esteem for Col. WARDLE, a piece of IRISH LINEN be presented to him, in the hope that he will never tarnish it by the stains of political apostacy, or wallowing in the filth of that corruption which he has so effectually exposed to public view, and public detestation.

6thly—That these Resolutions be published in the Belfast Commercial Chronicle and Dublin Evening Herald; and that a copy of the same be forwarded to G. L. WARDLE, esq. and another to JAMES CRAIG, esq. by our Chairman.—Signed in our name, and by our order,

SAMUEL LESLIE, Chairman,
G. KIDD, Secretary.

DEATHS AND MARRIAGES.

IRISH.

ULSTER.

ANTRIM....*Married*....Mr. J. Martin, to Miss M. E. M'Clelland, of Island Magee. Mr. Maguire of Ballymena, to Miss Davidson of Aboghill. Lieut. J. Burke, of the Westmeath militia, to Frances, daughter of Rear Admiral Sir Digby Dent, baronet.

Died....In Belfast, Mr. A. M'Ilwrath. At Larne, aged 25, Mr. David Moore. In Belfast, Mr. William Mooney, land surveyor. At Belfast, on the 29th March, last, aged 18, Mr. John Byrtt Smylie, son to Mr. Smylie, of this town.

ARMAGH....*Married*....At Turner's grove, Mr. Borthewick, of Falkirk, to Miss Mary Andrews, of Annesborough, Co. Down. Mr. Hugh Kidd, of Tullielugh, to Miss Eliza M'Kinstry, of Glen.

QUEEN'S CO....*A further account of James Pim of Rushin, whose death was announced in our last number, but deferred for want of room; was furnished to us by a Correspondent.* Although his amiable qualities were in

for intellectual improvement; caressed abroad; desired in society, where her looks, and the ingenuous expression of her quick sensations diffused joy and cheerfulness, to see her bending her mind to every matron care, every domestic occupation; the patient instructress; the prudent manager; the attentive nurse; and all this under the pressure of great difficulties, and narrow circumstances, which made the care of a family to her, a truly serious and painful occupation.—In the last of these employments, that of a nurse, she caught a fever, which after a fortnight's illness, ended fatally, notwithstanding the kindest and most unremitting attentions of medical and other friends. The death of the young naturally excites sympathy, but seldom has there been a more general sensation of the kind than on the present occasion, both in the town where she lived and among an extended circle of friends and acquaintance. Her affectionate father and her younger sisters have sustained an irreparable loss. For herself, perhaps it ought not to be considered as a misfortune, that early maturity in virtue, has met with an early dismission from the cares and troubles of life.

*When loveliness, arrayed in opening bloom,
Framed to delight the sense, the heart to cheer,
Sinks early blasted to the silent tomb,
Who can suppress the sigh? restrain the tear?
But faith sheds comfort on the troubled mind,
And gratitude recounts what once was given;
To him who lent it be the boon resigned;
What soul *too* spotless, kind, and good for heaven?

Stoke Newington.

☞ *We were unable to devote that portion of room to the obituary we could have wished, notwithstanding we have given ten additional pages.*

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From April 20, till May 20.

The weather has been mostly dry since last Report, and latterly unusually hot for the season, which has been rather unfavourable for the flax crops; the moisture of the earth being too small to allow the seed to vegetate, and in many parts where the soil was light and dry, there appears a great inequality in its progress, and unless the late showers bring it forward, the prospect of a good crop is doubtful, the writer of this report has heard of several crops of flax that were sown early in April, having entirely failed, owing, as is supposed, to the severe night-frosts that happened about the time of its vegetating, and many people who were tempted by the difference of price, to purchase old seed, have been obliged to sow their ground a second time.

The quantity sown this year is estimated at very little more than one half the average of other seasons, which with the lateness of sowing, and the great proportion of bad seed in the market, are circumstances that afford reason for apprehending that there will be a great deficiency of raw material of our staple manufacture.

The wheat crops in many parts of the country are extremely thin, especially where they were late sown; the seed appears to have either been cut off by the worm, or to have perished before vegetation.

Oats and barley are also complained of in some places for being thin; the hot weather is certainly against their having a good appearance, but every farmer knows that these crops always look worst during the present month, and generally improve in the ensuing one.

The principal part of the potatoe crops have been got into the ground in good order, and as the quantity planted is supposed to be greater than usual, we may hope for an abundant supply of that *best of roots* for the succeeding year.

The following mode of saving Flaxseed has been suggested by a Correspondent, and we submit it to public trial.

One very material objection which lies against saving flaxseed, in this wet climate, is that the Lamass rains are frequently of long continuance and so heavy as to beat down the flax when the seed is filling, and consequently top-heavy, in this state the stalk in a short time rots, instant pulling is the only remedy to save the flax—the seed is lost. Against such a misfortune as this, there appears but one certain remedy, which is to prevent that part of the flax from which seed is intended to be saved from being thus beat down, by supporting it with rods, in the same manner as peas are. The rods should be two thirds the length of full-grown flax, and set immediately after the last weeding. From flax thus prepared, good seed may be saved in the worst of seasons.

some degree obscured from the world by local and domestic habits, yet were strikingly conspicuous to those who knew him. In the early part of his life, he carried on a considerable branch of the woollen business, in addition to his farm; in the conducting of which his social, generous, and unassuming disposition gained him the love and esteem of those he employed; as also of all the country round, by many of whom in the higher ranks of life, his society was sought after. As he advanced in life, his engagements in trade, not answering his expectations, he turned his attention to the management of his farm, which produced him and a large family a comfortable subsistence. In this rural and patriarchal retreat, his benevolent heart was conspicuous, particularly in the bosom of his own family, and when surrounded by his friends, he was an affectionate husband, a tender and loving father, a good neighbour, a kind and generous friend, a gentlemen and christian in whom was no guile. Although from early habit he was attached to the leading features of the society in which he was educated, yet as the evening of his day approached, he discovered much liberality of sentiment, and could cordially embrace those who differed from him in opinion. He married early in life Deborah, daughter of Anthony Robinson near Moat, county Westmeath, by whom he had seven sons, and nine daughters; fourteen of whom are still living, who with his widow are left to deplore their loss. May they also endeavour to imitate his bright example! His remains were interred at Mountrath the 8th instant, accompanied by a number of his united family and friends.

"Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings."

DOWN....*Married*....Mr. Robert Gibson, to Miss Rachel Patterson, both of Newtownards. Mr. John M'Caubrey, of Saintfield, aged 56, to Miss Brown, of Killinchy in the woods, aged 16.

Died.... At Castlewellan, Mr. Edward Young. In consequence of a fall from his horse, Mr. James Sinclair, of Comber. At Newry, Mr. John Guy, sen. Mrs. M'Clure, wife of the Rev. Robt. M'Clure, of Annahilt, near Hillsborough.

DONEGALL....*Died*.....At Donoghmore, Miss Spence, daughter to the Rev. N. Spence.

DERRY....*Married*....In the city of Londonderry, Mr. M'Conegal to Miss E. M'Conegal.

LEINSTER.

DUBLIN....*Married*....G. Chamley, esq. of the co. Down, to Miss Massey, daughter of Godfrey Massey, of Ballywire, co. Tipperary, esq. Henry Vansittart, esq. captain of his Majesty's ship Fortunée, to M. C. Pennyfather, daughter of the Rev. John Pennyfather, of Newport, co. Tipperary.

LOUTH.....*Married*.....Henry Hardman, esq. to Miss Davis, youngest daughter of the late James Davis, esq, of Drogheda.

MUNSTER.

CORK....*Died*....At Tower bridge, near Blarney, aged 100 years and four months, Robert Walsh, he passed his whole life a bachelor, retaining his understanding and senses to the last. BRITISH.

Died, February 26, 1809, in the 21st year of her age, ANNE FINCH, daughter of Mr. Finch of Birmingham. If to record departed merit be the office of the survivors, the death of this amiable young lady ought not to pass without notice. Her person was lovely, her temper uncommonly sweet, sympathizing and affectionate. She possessed a mind highly capable of cultivation, and great quickness of parts, as well as of feeling. These advantages she enjoyed, perhaps, in common with many others; but what distinguishes her character is, that she was early called to sustain trials and to practise virtues more than commonly falls to the lot of so tender an age. During that period in which even virtuous and promising youth is supposed to be sufficiently employed in furnishing the mind, and disciplining the heart, by way of preparation for the graver duties of life she was already practising them. Miss Finch was deprived of an excellent mother, the worthy and beloved daughter of Dr. Priestley, at the early age of fourteen; not however before she had imbibed principles of piety and moral conduct, lessons of wisdom, and habits of exertion with which that mother, during her long decline, had anxiously endeavoured to fix upon her mind, knowing the task which would devolve upon her. She was the eldest child of seven, and from that period to the day of her death she supplied her mother's place in the family, and was housekeeper, nurse, companion to her father, and instructress to her younger brothers and sisters. It was a touching sight for those who knew her in the interior of her home, to see a blooming young woman, her eyes sparkling with vivacity, endued with a quick and lively relish for all the innocent enjoyments of life, as well as a strong desire

Some decisions have lately taken place in the courts of law in this country, which are likely to produce a great change in the system of discounting in the town of Belfast. It has been adjudged that if any sum exceeding 6 per cent per annum, be taken on bills, whether under the name of commission, or any other denomination, the laws against usury apply, and that particularly giving bills which have some time to run, as cash is usury in an aggrevated form. On the question of law, the business appears to be decided, as to the propriety of allowing such practices in a commercial country, much may be said on both sides. If men of small capitals are assisted by such a practice to carry on trade, they may also be oppressed if the exactions are too great, and the profits of the trade may come ultimately to centre in the coffers of the discounter. In some cases the weak may be advantageously aided, but in others an undue extension of trade beyond the capital of the trader, may be encouraged to his own injury, and in many cases to the injury of those in the same trade with him; and this mode of raising money by drawing and redrawing, is attended with so heavy charges, as almost in all cases to sink those who engage deeply in it.

During the current month, exchange has risen to $8\frac{1}{4}$ and $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent, for gold, while the premium on guineas has fallen to 1, and latterly to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

MEDICAL REPORT.

List of Diseases occurring in the practice of a Physician in Belfast, from April 20, till May 20.

Barometer....highest		30	10	Thermometer.....highest		73	30
mean		29	30	mean		42	00
lowest		29	0	lowest		34	00

Typhus,	1	Contagious fever.
Pneumonia,	1	Pleurisy.
Opthalmia,	4	Inflammation of the eyes.
Rheumatismus acutus,	2	Acute rheumatism.
Phthisis Pulmonalis,	1	Consumption.
Asthma,	2	Asthma.
Amaurosis,	2	Blindness without apparent disease.
Aphtha,	1	Thrush.
Variola,	1	Small pox.
Scrophula,	6	Evil.
Herpes,	4	Tetter, vulgarly called scurvy.
Pyrosis,	1	Waterbrash.
Hæmoptysis,	1	Spitting of blood.
Epylepsia cerebralis,	2	Convulsions.
Colica,	2	Colic.
Hysteria,	1	Hysterics.
Rachitis,	1	Rickets.
Anasarca,	1	General Dropsy.
Gonorrhœa, *Syphilis*,	8	Venereal disease.
Morbi infantiles,	27	Febrile and bowel complaints of children.

The diseases of this month are not marked by any particular character, unless it be mildness, fever is gradually wearing away, which together with the absence of small-pox, measels, scarlet-fever and hooping-cough, ought to be esteemed a blessing, for although the list presents one case of small-pox, it cannot be altogether referred to the diseases of Belfast or its neighbourhood, as the child was sent here to be inoculated for cow-pox and brought the disease with it from a distance of ten or twelve miles, nor has it spread, as most of the children in the street where it remained had been previously vaccinated, one of the cases of amaurosis, or gutta serena, decidedly overturns an opinion of Dr. Darwin and some others, that "this is a disease of dark eyes only," the subject of it having light blue eyes; electricity, calomel, hemlock and a seaton had been all tried in vain, when it occurred to your reporter that galvanism might be useful in removing the torpid or paralytic state of the optic nerve, but he is obliged to declare that neither in this nor in two similar cases was there the slightest benefit derived from its application; and in the case of a man who killed himself by drinking a large quantity of spirits its effects were much less in

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

Owing to the pernicious orders in council, not more than one half of the usual quantity of flaxseed is sown in Ireland, this year. In many places the old Riga seed was of bad quality, and the people are now resowing their grounds. Our staple trade must suffer considerably from this deficiency. In the mean time, however, the speculators in flax not finding it convenient to hold it much longer, that article has fallen considerably. In Liverpool Irish flax now sells at about 13*s.* per stone.

The sale of linens both in London and Dublin is suspended. The wholesale drapers in London have made a stand against purchasing at the present prices, but it is said that the stock of linens in their warehouses is small. Brown linens in this country have experienced little depression; from these considerations, and from the small quantity of flaxseed sown, there is little room to expect a permanent fall on this article.

Since the alteration of the embargo in America, some vessels have arrived from that country. A small quantity of flaxseed was received, but totally inadequate to the supply needed. Cotton wool has fallen very greatly in price, to the no small loss of the speculators in that article. If they only suffered there would be little cause for regret, but the holders of that article for the necessary purposes of their trade, also suffer. Such are the effects of the commercial war system, and of speculation carried to the unwarrantable lengths to which it has latterly arrived. To the speculations in linen, flax and cotton we may add the speculation in fine wool, and superfine woollen-cloths. Owing to the seizure of a quantity of Vicuna wool in Spain, by the French, speculation was immediately at work, and without any adequate cause, the manufactures of fine wool advanced most rapidly. The effects have been dismal, and according to a calculation made by some members of the board of agriculture in England, it is computed that 20,000 taylors have in that country been thrown out of employment. At a public dinner held after Lord Somerville's late show of fat cattle, in London, Sir John Sinclaire, alluding to this circumstance, gave the following toast, which is also applicable on other similar instances of speculation: "May idle speculators never fleece the industrious"

Notwithstanding the relaxations in the embargo, on the part of America, and the alteration in the British orders in council, matters appear far from being accommodated between the two countries. At present the Americans declare Holland to be neutral, and the British direct the blockade of her ports. If they act according to these declarations, British cruizers will probably seize American vessels entering the ports of Holland, and thus give occasion for direct hostilities. Affairs must remain in this state of uncertainty for some time longer, at least till the decision of the American government is known, when they see the alterations made in the orders in council.

In the mean time the president (Madison) has published a proclamation stating that intimation has been given to him by the British envoy, that the orders in council would be withdrawn on the 10th of next month, and declaring in that case free intercourse shall be renewed between the two countries from that period. Some cause for hesitation yet remained, whether the alterations which have been made by our government, will afford complete satisfaction in America. Doubts on this subject are still farther confirmed, by observations that the Earl of Bathurst, as president of the Board of Trade, in a conversation with the chairman of the committee of American merchants, has declared that the British Envoy was not authorized to make the concessions to America, which appear in his correspondence. Thus our administration show themselves not possessed of the qualification to know how to concede with dignity, but descend to render their diplomatic negociations a mere higgling bargain, of a trifle more or less to be conceded.

The Earl of Liverpool and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have declared that these orders are not rescinded, but only altered to accommodate the present state of things, particularly with regard to the countries now in alliance with England. They attempted to involve the business in obscurity, and to give to it the appearance of little concession being made to America. Lord Grenville well remarked, "that the fate of the present alterations would probably be similar to the original orders, to be praised, supported, carried, and finally relinquished; and that in the exact proportion, in which they participated of the nature of the former orders, in the same proportion they would be found injurious to the interests of the country."

A limited intercourse is at present permitted between these countries and Holland, the necessities of the latter country have probably extorted some concessions in the way of trade from her rulers, although the continuance of them is very precarious, and this trade may probably again, as on former occasions, be speedily interrupted.

producing muscular motion than where sudden death had taken place from any other kind of violence, the irritable principle being, as your reporter supposes nearly exhausted by the stimulus of the ardent spirit; but although it has been inefficacious in these cases, it has been applied with marked advantage in rheumatism and some other complaints and it has removed tooth-ache almost instantaneously.

NATURALIST'S REPORT.

From April, 20, to May 20.

Through the garden now we'll range,
View its sweets and mark its change,
Beauteous fav'rites of a day!
Oh! how sweet the breath of May,
Oh! how rich her form appears,
Bounteous smiling thro' her tears,
As the day-star riding high,
Clears the lately clouded sky.

WESTAL.

The wise and the simple, the learned and unlearned, of every age and every nation, have dwelt with raptures on the pleasures of spring, and cold and desponding must be that heart, which is not elated at the awakening of nature from the death-like sleep of winter. A pleasure arises like that from meeting an old friend, on beholding the enlivened plants again displaying their fragrant or gaudy blossoms: a thousand pleasing or melancholy reflections, fix themselves in the imagination, and the sensations which we experienced when last we saw their evolving beauties re-occupy their place in the mind.

Seldom has spring appeared with more graceful mein than at present, her progress has not been interrupted by the usual frowns of winter, and the trifling check which vegetation received, only retarded the flowering to a more genial period, and in full luxuriance the fragrant orchard now presents the pleasing prespect of a fruitful autumn.

22, Peach leaved Willow (Salix amygdalina) Common Plum (Prunus domestica) Bird Cherry (Prunus avium) flowering, and Willow Wren (Motacilla Trochilus) come and singing.

23, Stichwort or Starwort (Stellaria Holostea) flowering, and Nettle Butterfly (Papila urtica) plenty.

24, Byzantine Squill (Scilla amoena) flowering, and Orange Tip Butterfly (Papilio Cardamimes) appearing.

25, Purple Orchis (Orchis mascula) Cuckoo flower (Cardamine pratensis) flowering.

30, Thyme leaved Speedwell (Veronica serpyllifolia) Hoop petticoat Narcissus (Narcissus Bulbocodium) flowering, Willow wren plenty.

May 1, Mountain Speedwell (Veronica montana) flowering.

3, Bristly leaved Lychnidea (Phlox setacea) flowering. A swallow (Hirundo rustica) flying about.

4, Cow Parsley (Chœrophyllum sylvestre) Oriental Narcissus (Narcissus orientalis) flowering.

5, Swallows plenty, and the Cuckoo (Cuculus canorus) singing.

6, Louse Wort (Pedicularis sylvatica) flowering.

7, Germander Speedwell (Veronica Chamœdrys) Harebell (Scilla nutans) Tuberous bitter Vetch (Orobus tuberosus) Blue Flowered Bugle (Adjuga reptans) flowering.

8, Rail (Gallinula crex) calling, Herrings (Clupea Harrengus) appear in Belfast Lough.

10, Tulips (Tulipa Gesneri) flowering.

11, Torrent avens (Geum rivale) Apple (Pyrus Malus) flowering, and White spot Butterfly (Papilio Ægeria) appearing.

12, Broom (Spartium scoparium) Buck-bean (Menyanthes trifoliata) flowering, and White throat (Motacilla sylvia. Lin.) come and singing.

13, Sitfast (Ranunculus repens) flowering.

14, Yellow Poppy (Papaver Cambricum) Awl-leaved Spurry (Spergula subulata) Wood Geranium (Geranium sylvaticum) flowering, and Sedge Warbler (Motacilla salicaria. Lin.) come.

15, White Lilac (Syringa vulgaris) flowering.

16, Crimson flowering Pœony (Pœonia peregrina) and fine leaved Pœony (Pœonia tenuifolia) flowering.

17, Soft Dovesfoot (Geranium molle) Cut leaved Geranium (Geranium dissectum) and Birds-foot Trefoil (Lotus corniculatus) flowering.

18, Rose-coloured upright Honeysuckle (Azalea nudiflora) Yellow do. (Azalea Pontica) and Marsh Starwort (Stellaria uliginosa) flowering.

19, Persian Lilac (Syringa Persica) flowering, and Swifts (Hirundo Apus) come.

20, Pontic Rose Bay (Rhododendron Ponticum) and Berberry (Berberis vulgaris) in flower; most people have heard of, and many have seen the extraordinary degree of irritability exhibited by the Sensitive Plant (Mimosa sensitiva) but few have observed that the Common Berberry, exhibits this principle in a no less remarkable degree in its flower, on touching with a pin, the base of the Stamina, an instantaneous motion takes place, the anthera are struck against the stigma, and a discharge of pollen takes place; sometime after, generally in about a quarter of an hour the stamina regain their former position.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

From April 20, to May 20.

It is not often that we have had a better opportunity of remarking the extraordinary influence of the wind on the weather, than since our last Report, and how much the heat and cold of a country depend on its proximity or distance from a continent or high land, from which the wind blows: about London and Bath the fall of snow was so great on the 20th and 21st of April, that it was lying in many places to the depth of three feet, and the streets of Bath were said to be nearly impassible, while we, being in a situation where the stream of cold air had to pass over a greater extent of sea, only experienced that degree of cold which produces hail showers.

April, 22, 23, 24, ... Fine dry days.
25 . . . . . Gentle rain.
26, ... Dark dry day.
27, ... Rain in the morning.
28, 29, ... Cold clear days.
30, ... Dark day with rain in the evening.
May, 1, 2, ... Hail showers.
3, ... Pleasant dry day.
4, 5, ... Gentle showers.
6, ... Breezy with a trifling shower.
7, 17, ... Clear dry days.
18, ... In the evening thunder to the eastward, with rain.
19, ... Same.
20, ... Dark dry day.

The Barometer was on the first of May, 29° 2′ and on the 24th of April 30° 6′ the rest of the time there was little variation.

The Thermometer although on the 21st of April, and 2d May, it was so low in the morning as 39, has seldom been observed so high at the season; invariably warm weather set in on the 6th of May, since which time the Thermometer has not been observed below 51, and on the 15th it was as high as 63.

The general prevalence of the wind, has been northerly; as it was observed northerly 14; southerly 10; easterly only once. The intermediate points were easterly 13, westerly 11 times.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR JUNE 1809.

The Moon rises on the first, at 29 min. past 11, aft. being at that time between the first and second stars of the Goat, but while they are near the horizon the stars will not be visible. She passes the mer. at 6 min. past 4, next morning, at which time the bright star Athair in the Eagle is nearly north from her; at 9 she is 51° 7 from Markab, and 54° 3 from Antares.

Fifth, She rises at 47 min. past 0, morning, and passes the meridian at 36 min. past 6, at this time the two bright stars Markab and Scheat, are due north of her and on the meridian, west of the meridian we may behold Athair, and nearer the horizon the two beautiful stars, Ras Alhague in the Serpent-bearer and Ras Algethi in Hercules, and to the west Algenib, Menkar, &c. She sets 25 min. past 0, aft.

Tenth, She rises at 43 min. past 2, morning, being then near the Pleiades; as she mounts the heavens she is followed by Aldebaran, Bellatrix, Betelguese and Rigel in Orion; by Castor and Pollux, in the Twins; by Procyen in the little Dog, and by Sirius in the great Dog, all which form a pleasing prospect to the early riser, who delights in observing the motions, &c. of the heavenly bodies. She culminates at 20 min. past 10, morning.

Fifteenth, The Moon again cheers us in our evening excursions; she passes the mer. at 16 min. past 2, aft. and does not set till 58 min past 9 o'clock, which is one hour and 28 min. after sun-set; at 9 she is 33° 30 from Regulus.

Twentieth, She passes the meridian at 17 min. past 6, aft. and sets at 12; at 9 she was 23° 42 from Spica, in the Virgin, and 88° 28 from the Sun.

Twentyfifth, She rises at 36 min. past 6 aft. and passes the meridian at 40 min. past 10, having Saturn and the second star of the Scorpion to the west of her, and Antares nearly below her; at 9 she is 54° 20′ from Athair in the Eagle, 47° 54′ from Spica in the Virgin.

Thirtieth, She rises 21 min. past 10, aft. at this time she is removed very considerably from the two first stars of the Goat, and to have above her the two first stars of the Water Bearer, and to the east the two first stars of this constellation.

Mercury, this month is favourable for observations on him, he is an evening star during the whole of the month; on the 13 he is at his greatest elongation. The Moon passes him on the 15th.

Venus is a morning star, too near the sun to be much observed in the beginning of the month, but her distance from him is daily encreasing. The Moon passes her on the 10th.

Mars passes the mer. on the 1st, at 23 min. past 3, aft. and on the 25th at 6 min. past 7, his motion is direct through 8¼ degrees. The moon passes him on the 22d.

Jupiter is a morning star, at the latter end of the month this planet being a little west of Venus, will, with her, attract the attention of the early traveller. The moon passes him on the 7th.

Saturn passes the mer. on the 1st, at 38 min. past 11, aft. and on the 25th, at 52 min. past 9, his motion is retrograde through about two degrees, and we shall observe it by his distance from the second of the Scorpion, increasing. The moon passes him on the 25th.

Herschell passes the mer. 6 min. past 10, aft. on the 1st, and at 36 min. past, 8 aft. on the 21st his motion is retrograde through nearly three quarters of a degree. The Moon passes him on the 23d.

ECLIPSES OF JUPITER'S SATELLITES.

1st SATELLITE. *Imersions.*				2d SATELLITE. *Imersions.*				3d SATELLITE.				4th SATELLITE.			
DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.	DAYS.	H.	M.	S.
2	10	53	42	2	6	37	44	7	7	51	27 Im.	14	15	48	23 Im.
4	5	22	12	5	19	56	58	7	10	26	39 E.	14	16	12	39 E.
5	23	50	37	9	9	15	11	14	11	51	57 Im.				
7	18	19	7	12	22	34	31	14	14	26	4 E.				
9	12	47	32	16	11	52	43	21	15	52	25 Im.	* *First Satellite Continued.*			
11	7	16	1	20	1	12	5	21	18	25	32 E.	21	22	6	38
13	1	44	26	23	14	30	18	28	19	53	24 Im.	23	16	35	3
14	20	12	55	27	3	49	40	28	22	25	29 E.	25	11	3	29
16	14	41	19	30	17	7	54					27	5	31	54
18	9	9	47									29	0	0	20
20	3	38	12									30	18	28	44

Look to the right hand.*

☞ *We present to our Readers a sample of the fine Yarn, mentioned in a former number, spun by Ann M'Quillin, of Comber; as a proof of the ingenuity of our Countrywoman.*